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POLL RESULTS

Do you support legislation increasing by as much as 50 percent fines for speed violations?

Yes	43
No	81
No comment	3

Sunday, January 22, 2012

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Experience Chinese culture at its finest today as they feast and delight worldwide in celebrating one of their most important occasions: the welcoming of Lunar New Year,.

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NATION

Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich stormed to an upset victory in the South Carolina primary Saturday night.

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Divers plumbing the capsized Costa Concordia's murky depths pulled out the body of a woman in a life vest Saturday.

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Teenager allegedly assaults 2 men, robs woman. PAGE 3

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SAIPAN AIR SEEN TO BOOST CNMI TOURIST ARRIVALS BY 97% IN 3 YEARS

'Stable air service to drive economic recovery in 2012'

» Businesses rally behind Tan's 'Believe in CNMI' campaign

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While many elected officials believe legalizing casino gambling on Saipan and further cost-cutting will be the ones to immediately stem the local financial crisis, Tan Holdings president Jerry said on Saturday that the "key" to the CNMI's economic recovery is boosting airline seats by, among other things, launching Saipan Air which is seen to increase arrivals by 22 percent in 2012 alone and by 97 percent in 2015.

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan unveils for the first time the "look" of the Tan Holdings-owned Saipan Air, the CNMI's first local airline, which will have a July 1, 2012 inaugural flight from key Japanese cities, during the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's board installation dinner on Saturday. Tan, the Chamber's keynote speaker, shared his optimism that the CNMI is on its way to economic recovery in 2012 with the help of Saipan Air which will later on expand to other destinations.

CNMI lawsuit on FICA draws varied views

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) said the CNMI government's lawsuit stopping the imposition of Social Security and Medicare taxes on Filipinos and Koreans with Commonwealth-only worker status would just make it harder—if not impossible—for the CNMI to reach an agreement with the Internal Revenue Service to help businesses and workers on the islands, but the business

See LAWSUIT on Page 4

Arenovski is Chamber's 2011 Businessperson of the Year

» 2012 board of directors installed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Delta Management Corp. president Jim Arenovski bagged the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Businessperson of the Year award, besting three other nominees whom he also congratulated while accepting his award at the 2012 Chamber Board of Directors installation dinner on Saturday.

"I was surprised. The other nominees have also done a good job. I guess it's my time," said Arenovski, who was nominated at least three times in the last five years before finally nailing the award.

He said he's very happy when his name was announced on stage by 2010 Businessperson of the Year and Triple J Enterprises president Robert "Bob" Jones.

In his brief remarks, Arenovksi called on his fellow employers to try to hire local workers and continue to help keep the CNMI as a pristine place for tourists and residents.

He also thanked his employees, his wife Jill, and the Chamber of Commerce, which he has been a part of since 2000. He has been a director, secretary, president, and vice president of the Chamber, the largest business organization in the CNMI with some 150 members.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) also personally presented Arenovski with a certificate of recognition during the event held in the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort & Spa in Gara-

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HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2011 Businessperson of the Year Jim Arenovski, right, reacts as Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP), left, presents him with a certificate of commendation during the Chamber's board installation dinner at Fiesta Resort & Spa on Saturday.

Local

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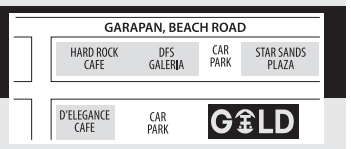

EPA ID's applicants for construction manager post for CUC oil pipeline

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has identified five potential applicants for the position of construction manager to oversee the design and implementation of the much delayed construction of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s new oil pipeline.

EPA counsel Bradley R. O'Brien on Thursday informed U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter, CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher, and Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham, that the information about the construction manager position applicants was already forwarded to CUC on Wednesday.

O'Brien did not include in his letter to Carter, Fisher, and Buckingham the identities of the applicants due to business confidentiality reasons.

O'Brien, however, stated that the identities of the applicants can be provided to the district court upon request.

As part of recent discussions about the CUC pipeline project, Judge Carter requested CUC and EPA to seek to identify potential applicants for the construction manager (CM) position.

O'Brien said notwithstanding that EPA has provided the identities of potential CM applicants to CUC as directed by the court, EPA noted that it is important to continue to recognize that it is CUC's sole responsibility under a stipulated order to seek and identity a competent CM, to retain the CM upon EPA's approval, and to compensate the CM.

O'Brien said EPA wants to make it clear that it is incumbent upon CUC to draft and forward a request for proposal to the applicants and that as these applicants are private businesses, EPA should not be seen as endorsing or recommending the applicants.

The counsel clarified that EPA's forwarding the CM application information to CUC does not constitute EPA's approval of these applicants.

O'Brien said if CUC proposes to retain any applicant, the utilities agency and the applicant will be required to fully comply with the stipulated order's approval process and be approved by EPA.

The counsel said the U.S. government appreciates Judge Carter's continuing attention to the design and construction of the pipeline.

"It is our hope that EPA providing potential CM information to CUC will assist in completing the much delayed construction of the CUC Pipeline," O'Brien added.

In the latter part of December 2011, CUC legal counsel Fisher disclosed to the district court that the retained CM has left the project.

Fisher notified the court that without the CM, they believe this will delay the construction date.

The CUC pipeline is an 8-inch aboveground receiving pipeline that delivers fuel to CUC power

See EPA on Page 4

1 of 5 defendants in the beating of store cashier gets 3-month jail term

One of the five persons, including three women, being accused over the beating of a female cashier and two men at a store in Chalan Kanoa, has entered a guilty plea and was ordered to spend three months in jail.

Mark Rudolph, 22, pleaded guilty to disturbing the peace.

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman accepted Rudolph's plea agreement and guilty plea.

In his written order issued on Thursday, Wiseman sentenced Rudolph to six months in prison, all suspended except for three months.

Wiseman gave the defendant credit for one month and four days that he already served in jail.

Rudolph was ordered to start serving the jail term at the Department of Corrections on Feb. 2, 2012 at 8am. He is expected to be released on March 29, 2012 at 8am.

After serving the jail term, the defendant will be placed on supervised probation for two years.

Rudolph will be required to submit to an alcohol and drug assessment, and anger management counseling at the Community Guidance Center.

Wiseman ordered the defendant to pay restitution to the victim, Xiaoping Tudela, in an amount to be determined by the court.

The judge required the defendant to pay a $1,050 fine, $25 court assessment fee, plus probation fee.

According to the plea agreement, on Oct. 8, 2011 on Saipan, Rudolph disturbed the peace of Tudela.

The Office of the Attorney General charged Rudolph with assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault and battery, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and attempted robbery.

Rudolph's co-defendants are Cheroleen Ray, Arinna A. Reiong, Norma Tipingeni, and Anson Sansi.

The incident happened at Dhaka Store along Texas Road in the morning of Aug. 8, 2011.

When a police officer responded to the store, the cashier, Tudela, was lying in a pool of blood on the floor.

Police said the five suspects allegedly started beating up Tudela when the victim confronted Ray for slamming the phone on its console.

Rudolph allegedly tried to open the cash register. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Teenager allegedly assaults 2 men, robs woman

Police arrested last week an intoxicated teenager who allegedly beat up a man driving a moped scooter, assaulted another man, then robbed a woman at Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Detective Simon Manacop served an arrest warrant to Nicolas Villanueva Cabrera, 19, on charges of robbery, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and criminal mischief.

During Thursday's hearing, Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo imposed a $25,000 cash bail on Cabrera.

Govendo ordered the teenager to stay away from PIC, victims, and witnesses.

Preliminary hearing will be on Thursday, Jan. 26, at 9am.

Manacop stated in his report that, on Jan. 7, 2012 at 1:18am, a disturbance was reported to the police that happened along Beach Road by PIC.

Manacop said Police Officer Rudolpho Sablan responded to the scene.

Sablan's investigation showed that a male staff of PIC had just gotten off from work and was heading north on Beach Road on board a moped scooter.

A teenager later identified as Cabrera, who was standing on the middle of the road, stopped the PIC staff and grabbed the moped's gas gear.

Cabrera demanded the PIC staff to get off from the moped. When the victim hesitated to get off the moped, Cabrera punched him twice on the helmet he was wearing.

The helmet's face shield was damaged. The moped's gas throttle also fell to the ground, damaging the brake handle and gas gear.

The victim's co-worker came and stopped Cabrera, who then left the scene.

Manacop said that, at 1:35am on that same day, Police Officer Flor Estabillo responded to another disturbance that happened at southern parking area of PIC.

Manacop said the officer learned that while a man was waiting for his girlfriend inside his vehicle parked on the southern parking lot of PIC, he heard a loud thump on his car.

The victim got up and noticed Cabrera standing by the driver side window. Cabrera approached and asked the victim if he had a problem.

The victim got down from the car, but Cabrera allegedly punched him. The victim managed to avoid the punch. Cabrera then ran away.

The victim proceeded to the loading dock area of PIC hoping to get assistance from security personnel.

Cabrera saw a female PIC employee, who had just gotten off from work and was exiting the loading dock area.

Cabrera, who was not wearing any shirt, allegedly followed the woman, grabbed her left buttocks, pulled her shirt, then grabbed the strap of her bag.

Fearing that Cabrera would rape her, the woman shouted for help as she struggled.

Both fell on the pavement just behind the woman's car. Cabrera grabbed her bag and ran across the street.

The bag contained a wallet, $106 cash, credit and debit cards, an ATM card, identification cards, assorted car keys, and driver's license.

The woman suffered injuries to the right knee and left elbow.

At 3:10am that same day, two other police officers spotted Cabrera walking along Afetnas Road in San Antonio. After a witness identified Cabrera as the one who beat up the person driving a moped scooter, police then arrested him.

At 9:56am that day, a police officer recovered the woman's stolen purse on a tree by Cabrera's residence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

New music school opens on Saipan

A new school has opened on island aiming to impart musical knowledge and skills to both children and adults.

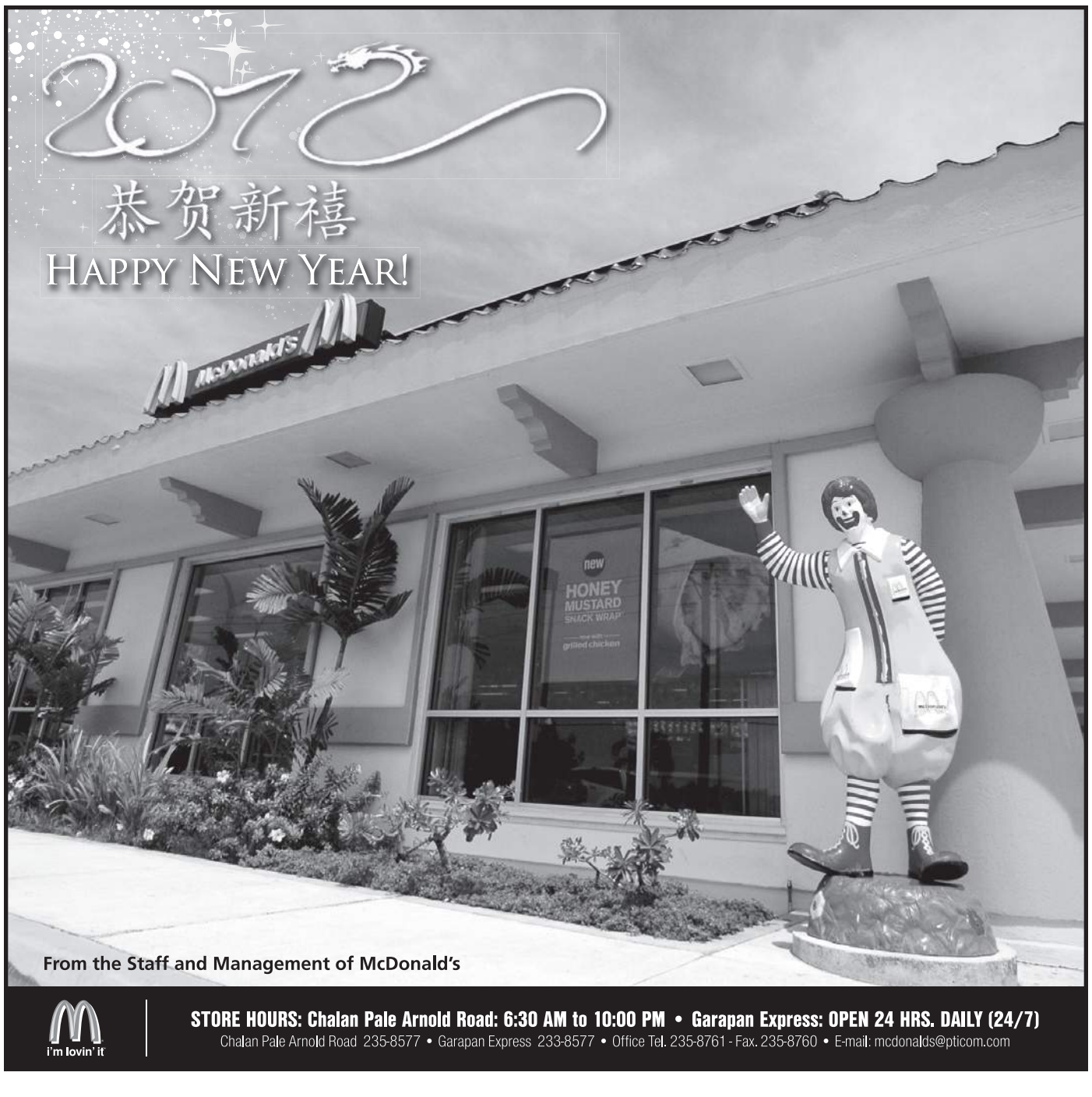
La Musique was formally unveiled Tuesday night at its location in Chalan Laulau across Hollywood Video Shop in Middle Road.

This new music school is owned by Jesus Hocog and will offer lessons for guitar, drums, piano, dance, voice, and a lot more.

Its owner said the school will provide state-of-the-art classrooms equipped with necessary instruments for the students to learn and enjoy.

La Musique also guarantees that all its mentors and instructors are professionals on the areas they will cover. The school targets children ages from 4 years old and above, who will receive both group and one-on-one sessions from instructors.

Hocog said he opened the music school to inspire and motivate children and adults to engage in musical activities. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***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LAWSUIT

From Page 1

community's reactions to the lawsuit remain varied.

Sablan, at the same time, cautioned that if businesses with CW workers do not pay federal taxes just because of the CNMI government's lawsuit, these same businesses will have to answer to IRS later on especially if the lawsuit fails.

"Then who's responsible for it? The governor? Is he going to be responsible for these unpaid bills (taxes) that will grow over time? So he needs to be more realistic here. We're having conversation with IRS…to find whatever it is that we can do (to help workers and businesses)," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce installation dinner on Saturday.

Some business representatives said they have started withholding FICA taxes in December, others started doing so this month because they said IRS has already made it clear that those with CW status are not exempt from FICA taxes.

There were businesses on Saturday that also said they won't be affected by the FICA taxes at all because they have been paying these taxes for years for their employees.

IRS says unless temporary workers in the CNMI are eligible for an exemption from Social Security and Medicare taxes based on some other circumstances such as holding a valid H-2 visa, then employers are required to withhold and pay Social Security and Medicare taxes.

Eric Plinske of Staywell Health Insurance and one of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's newly-sworn in board directors said while he has yet to fully read the CNMI government's lawsuit, he thinks it is unfair that temporary CW workers are subject to these taxes especially if holders of other temporary types of visas are exempt from these taxes.

"I think it's worth challenging… The bigger question is while it's in progress, when is the official date that you're supposed to comply (with the IRS decision)? Everyone has a different interpretation," he said.

Plinkse said for years, the federal government knew that the immigration takeover will happen but there was no mention of federal tax imposition which could have helped businesses and workers prepare for it.

"I think there's some real slip up on the part on the federal (government) regardless of how this lawsuit ends up," he added.

John Jones, co-owner of 360 Revolving Restaurant, said the issue of "fairness" comes to play because foreign workers with CW status will be contributing into the federal tax system and not benefit from it once the transitional CW program expires in 2014.

"They have a very big valid concern," said Jones. "I think it's unfair. Why don't they just exempt these CW workers altogether?"

Jones, who has been in the business sector in the CNMI since 1997, said when these workers invested some 10 to 20 years working in the CNMI under the previous system, they were not made to pay for federal taxes. He said those long years could have made them eligible to reap the benefits of paying into the federal tax system. But now that a new CW system was introduced, they will be made to pay federal taxes during the transition period with no guarantee of benefiting from it.

Federal taxes are on top of CNMI taxes that workers in the CNMI pay.

The CNMI government, in suing on Thursday the U.S. Department of Treasury and IRS, said the extension of the Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes on Filipino and Korean nonresident workers could result in the imposition of $24 million annually in illegal taxes on the local economy.

FICA covers Social Security and Medicare taxes, which are shared by both employees and employers.

"We're having conversations with IRS on this FICA issue… We're just concerned that now they're going to shut down the whole thing, that they won't be able to talk to us because there's a lawsuit involved," Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* in an interview at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce installation dinner on Saturday.

Sablan said IRS has, for one, put out a notice that those with CW status, including workers from the Philippines, are not exempt from paying Federal Insurance Contribution Act taxes.

The delegate, now back in Washington, D.C., said despite the lawsuit, he will still continue to communicate with IRS on the issue of federal taxes.

"Let me put it this way… When they [Department of Homeland Security] published the rule two years ago on CW workers, we went to court, stopped the whole thing. Then now that it (worker rule) is out, somebody came up with a lawsuit complaining that DHS didn't do their job on time," Sablan said. "I'm just concerned that what I thought was beginning to be a good candid conversation as much as possible with IRS, that this lawsuit may actually just make it more complicated and more difficult to achieve what it is we can do for our businesses here."

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in an interview a few hours before the CNMI government filed a lawsuit against U.S. Treasury and IRS, said his administration would try to work amicably with IRS on the FICA issue.

Workers with pending CW status applications and their employees, meanwhile, are now bracing for the impact of additional taxation on their paychecks and personnel expenses.

STABLE

From Page 1

Tan was the keynote speaker at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 2012 board of directors' installation dinner.

His presentation centered on a private sector-driven recovery, optimism, and belief in the CNMI and its people, not losing track of the only industry that fuels growth which is tourism, and Tan Holdings' launching of the CNMI's first local airline called Saipan Air.

Tan Holdings is the parent company of *Saipan Tribune*.

Saipan Air's inaugural flight from the CNMI's main tourism market of Japan will be on July 1, 2012.

It will use two Boeing 737 aircraft and will initially focus on key Japanese airports of Narita, Nagoya, and Osaka.

Tan, in his presentation, said three new flights a year from the said key Japanese markets will inject $100 million into the local economy, with each flight annually equating to 50,000 tourists.

With each tourist spending an average of $667, their on-island expenditure could reach $33 million a year.

Tan said Saipan Air's operations will help boost arrivals to the CNMI from 369,012 in 2011 to 450,226 or some 22 percent.

In three years or by 2015, arrivals to the CNMI could go up by 97 percent to 728,211 with Saipan Air's help.

'Believe in CNMI'

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Douglas Brennan, executive director Richard Pierce, 2011 Chamber Businessperson of the Year Jim Arenovski, and other members rallied behind Tan's "Believe in CNMI" campaign which embraces tourism as the islands' only major industry.

"We've got to believe in our strength. I believe in the CNMI. I hope you also believe in the CNMI… I do believe this is the beginning of our recovery," Tan said as he wrapped up his presentation that earned a standing ovation among members of the audience.

A former Marianas Visitors Authority board member, Tan said the CNMI has the best product to offer tourists who, for decades, have loved the CNMI for its clean air, beautiful weather, stunning beaches, and beautiful sunrises and sunsets, among other things.

"They're not coming anymore. But it's not that they don't like our islands," Tan said.

He said it was because there were limited flights to the islands, along with factors beyond the CNMI's control.

The CNMI also had to live through a "perfect storm" or a combination of the negative impacts of the garment industry's departure, uncertainties caused by the federalization of local immigration, and the withdrawal of Japan Airlines.

"Any one of the three has a huge economic impact; experiencing them all at the same time (is too much)," he said. The triple disaster in Japan in March 2011 added to the CNMI's woes.

Arrivals from the CNMI's main market of Japan dropped by 65 percent, from 450,190 in 1997 to 156,131.

The CNMI's overall arrivals fell by 50 percent or from 726,690 in 1998 to 369,012 in 2011.

Businessmen shared Tan's optimism that the additional flights this year will be the beginning of economic recovery for the CNMI.

But Tan said Tan Holdings boosting tourism cannot be done by one entity alone, and "everyone has a role to play."

The government, he said, has to fund the Marianas Visitors Authority's marketing program.

He is proposing that businesses adopt a tourist site by helping to maintain and clean them up instead of depending only on the financially-challenged government.

Tan said a friend of his from Hong Kong has been impressed with Saipan motorists who give way to tourists crossing the street. That Hong Kong businessman is now also trying to do the same thing in Hong Kong. Tan said small things like this are not lost on tourists and foreign investors.

"Imagine all 55,000 people doing a good thing for tourism," said Tan.

After the installation dinner, other Chamber members had only praises for Tan's campaign to start the CNMI's economic recovery, which some businessmen said is a lot more realistic than what many CNMI government officials offer especially during an election year.

Eric Plinske, one of the newly-installed 2012 Chamber board directors, said Tan's presentation reminded the CNMI of things that are being taken for granted, including tourism as a whole.

"It's going to be an easy choice who's executive of the year for 2012 if this takes off. It will be a simple vote. I do see it (recovery), I'm very pleased to see the optimism. I think this is a good year," he said, adding that the "momentum" is there for an economy recovery.

But the CNMI's budget to market the islands has been on a decline, despite the fact that it is the only industry that the Commonwealth has.

Tan said the government has to realize that funding MVA is an "investment," not expenditure.

The 2003 Chamber Businessperson of the Year also said the CNMI cannot continue to cut costs. It needs to do something to raise revenues.

Standout from the rest

Tan said many businesses in the CNMI have been creative, aggressive. and proactive in initiating their own campaigns not only to make profit but to improve the CNMI's tourism industry.

In his PowerPoint presentation, he showed photos of some of these businesses that have become a standout from the rest despite the financial challenges.

These include "I Love Saipan" on Beach Road-Garapan, Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, World Resort Saipan, Sandy Beach Homes, Joeten in Kagman, Marfega Building near the Saipan airport, Sasha Co. Ltd. building owned by Russian investors along Beach Road, J&G/Micronesian Brokers Inc. for a warehouse construction in Puerto Rico, Marianas Business Plaza and its 360 Revolving Restaurant which is the only one of its kind in the Marianas, TSL Plaza which Tan Holdings owns, Tan's favorite project TSL Sports Complex in Gualo Rai, and Saipan Grand Hotel's 18-month renovation.

Businessmen are also optimistic about the impact of Korean firm E-Land's purchase of Pacific Islands Club-Saipan and Palms Resort Saipan. E-Land, as well as PIC and UMDA's Palms Resort, is expected to make a formal announcement soon.

Sources said at least for PIC, it was only a stock purchase. The management of the hotel will still remain with Ken Corp.

ARENOVSKI

From Page 1

pan on Saturday night.

The three other 2011 nominees were Docomo-Pacific CNMI general manager James E. Nelson, Saipan Sea Ventures Inc. chief executive officer Anthony Pellegrino, and Deloitte & Touche managing partner Michael S. Johnson.

Arenovski, originally from Massachusetts, has lived in the Marianas since 1987. He was special projects manager for Pacific Islands Club-Guam before becoming area manager for Domino's Pizza Group in Guam in 1989.

Shell Guam initially hired him in 1991 as commercial area manager and was promoted Saipan area manager and eventually became regional manager for Shell North Pacific which included Guam, Saipan, and Palau.

In 1998, he and his two partners formed Delta Management Corp., which currently operates eight Shell service stations.

Arenovski founded in 2011 The Bridge Project Inc., a non-profit organization that provides entry-level job readiness training and works with employers to increase the number of U.S. eligible workers.

He has also served on the board of NMI Crime Stoppers for 11 years and is currently its chairman. He also sits on the board of Crime Stoppers International.

2012 board, auction

Superior Court judge David Wiseman installed the 2012 Chamber Board of Directors led by reelected president Douglas A. Brennan of Microl Corp.

The other officers are: vice president Vincent J. Seman of Century Insurance, treasurer Mike S. Johnson of Deloitte & Touche, secretary Jolene G. Torres of MITA Travel, and directors Velma Palacios of IT&E, Eric Plinske of Staywell Health Insurance, Alex A. Sablan of Saipan Shipping Co., David M. Sablan Sr. of Century Insurance, and Melvin Tenorio of Marianas Pacific Distributors.

Brennan, in his remarks, cited notable Chamber projects in 2011 including the first ever CNMI prevailing wage survey. Brennan also enumerated the Chamber's continuing wish list, including making the CNMI a business-friendly and tourist-friendly destination, development of renewable energy sources, reduction of power rate, redistricting/reapportionment, a vote on Article 12, curbing government overspending, and an accounting of all federal grants that the CNMI received since 2006.

During Saturday's installation dinner, the Chamber of Commerce also held a silent auction to raise funds for its Educational Scholarship Fund and other educational endeavors.

Among those auctioned off were free hotel accommodations, a Gucci bag, a cellular phone, a floral arrangement, DVD system, and certificates for free 30-second radio commercials, among other things.

Tan Holdings Corp. president Jerry Tan was the keynote speaker. ***(See full story)***

Chamber executive director Richard Pierce served as master of ceremonies at the event wherein Saipan Southern High School Color Guards led the U.S. and CNMI Anthems while Father Jesse Reyes led he invocation and benediction.

EPA

From Page 2

plants 1 and 2 in Lower Base from the Mobil oil facility.

EPA had stated that until the pipeline is properly repaired or replaced, it poses a threat to United States waters.

EPA and CUC first agreed to complete the project by Feb. 24, 2011. They agreed to have a new deadline by June 1, 2011. CUC completed a design, but failed to construct the pipeline by this extended deadline.

The latest deadline is March 15, 2012.

Arctic Circle still scrambling for capital

After rejecting an initial $500,000 loan from the Marianas Public Land Trust due to its stringent terms, Arctic Circle Air officials have once again approached the trustees Friday seeking for a lower amount for its planned cargo airline.

But after a lengthy presentation by its top officials Herman Guerrero and Paul Zak, three members of the board denied giving the company preliminary or conditional approval for the $235,000 loan proposal.

Trustees Gregoria Omar, Melchor Mendiola Jr., and vice chairman Peter Cruz defeated a motion to approve in principle the loan proposal as recommended by trustee Alvaro Santos. Newly elected chairman Pedro Guerrero inhibited himself from the discussion citing personal conflict of interest.

The three trustees expressed reluctance in agreeing with the Arctic Circle's proposal without seeing something structured in black and white that will guarantee the loan repayment.

They emphasized the need for collaterals to safeguard the MPLT in addition to securing both Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Legislature's commitment on the loan agreement. They instructed company officials to work with the board's legal counsel and consultant in preparing necessary documentation for the loan proposal.

According to Arctic Circle officials, the CNMI government stands to benefit from the cargo airline business through collection of BGRT from the company, amounting to $500,000. They presented to the board a cost-impact analysis where they enumerated the projected rate of returns for all parties concerned.

They revealed that the $235,000 loan will be utilized in the physical delivery of the aircraft which is undergoing inspection in England and is securing certification from the Federal Aviation Administration.

They said Arctic Circle intends to repay the loan in less than three years. For the loan collaterals, they said some investors have identified several properties to commit. Confident of the strong support they got from some lawmakers and the administration, Arctic Circle officials said the business has strong potential to become successful.

During Friday's meeting, it was disclosed that besides the new loan proposal to MPLT, officials of the company said they also applied for a $3 million loan from the Independence Bank with the backing of the U.S. Department of Agriculture. This loan is still being processed with a proposed payment term of 10 years with roughly $23,000 per month. In the event the company fails to secure any of these loan proposals, its officials said contingency plans were also identified to mitigate the risks.

Arctic Circle plans to start transporting local produce from the CNMI to Guam in March this year. ***(Moneth G. Deposa)***

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Healthcare corp. wants MIAP transferred to central govt

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. wants all functions and responsibility of the Medically Indigent Assistance Plan transferred to the central government, which also handles the state Medicaid program.

MIAP is a program established to provide assistance to non-insured indigents by providing discounted rates on their prescription drugs as determined by the now defunt Department of Public Health.

For several years, DPH contracted PHI Pharmacy in providing service to MIAP clients. Source of the MIAP funds is the compact impact money provided to the CNMI yearly, which covers citizens of Federated States of Micronesia.

In a recent meeting of the healthcare corporation, board member Anthony Raho, the hospital's inpatient pharmacist, recommended the full transfer of all CHC tasks to the program to the Medicaid Office under the executive branch. CHC, under the regulation, has the responsibility to determine who are eligible to avail MIAP services and an identification card is issued to qualified clients which they use in availing discounted medical drugs.

Raho believes that MIAP should be taken over by the government and the Medicaid Office should be the one to make the determination of the MIAP clients since they know who are eligible to receive the services. MIAP clients are those who did not qualify to the Medicaid or Medicare programs.

Because of the limited resources and austerity measures implemented at CHC, its MIAP office was closed since late last year. However, acting board chair Pedro Dela Cruz emphasized that the program was never terminated.

"MIAP still exists and it has never been terminated. Whatever was approved last year [by the CHC-MIAP office], they are valid through the 12-month period upon renewal process. As far as I am concerned, it's good thing that PHI continues to honor them," said the acting chairman.

Cruz has instructed corporation chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta to work with PHI Pharmacy, the board legal counsel, the executive branch, and other board members in coming up with a solution to avert the anticipated problems when MIAP IDs expire. The board chair also instructed Babauta to address the expired reduced price medication plan with PHI Pharmacy.

Wilshire Assoc. renews local business license

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Wilshire Associates, the former investment consultant of the NMI Retirement Fund, said it is reviewing a newly signed law which amended the four-month-old Beneficiaries Derivative Act.

Wilshire principal Maggie Ralbovsky told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they need to wait for their legal department's full review of the amended law before making any further comments on the issue. However, she admitted that Wilshire has renewed its NMI business license.

"I will need to wait until my legal department fully reviews the situation before making any comments. Maybe I can share this with you: we renewed our NMI business license," said Ralbovsky, who also described the repeal of the law as a "positive development."

Senate Bill 17-94 is now Public Law 17-67 after it was signed Thursday by Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

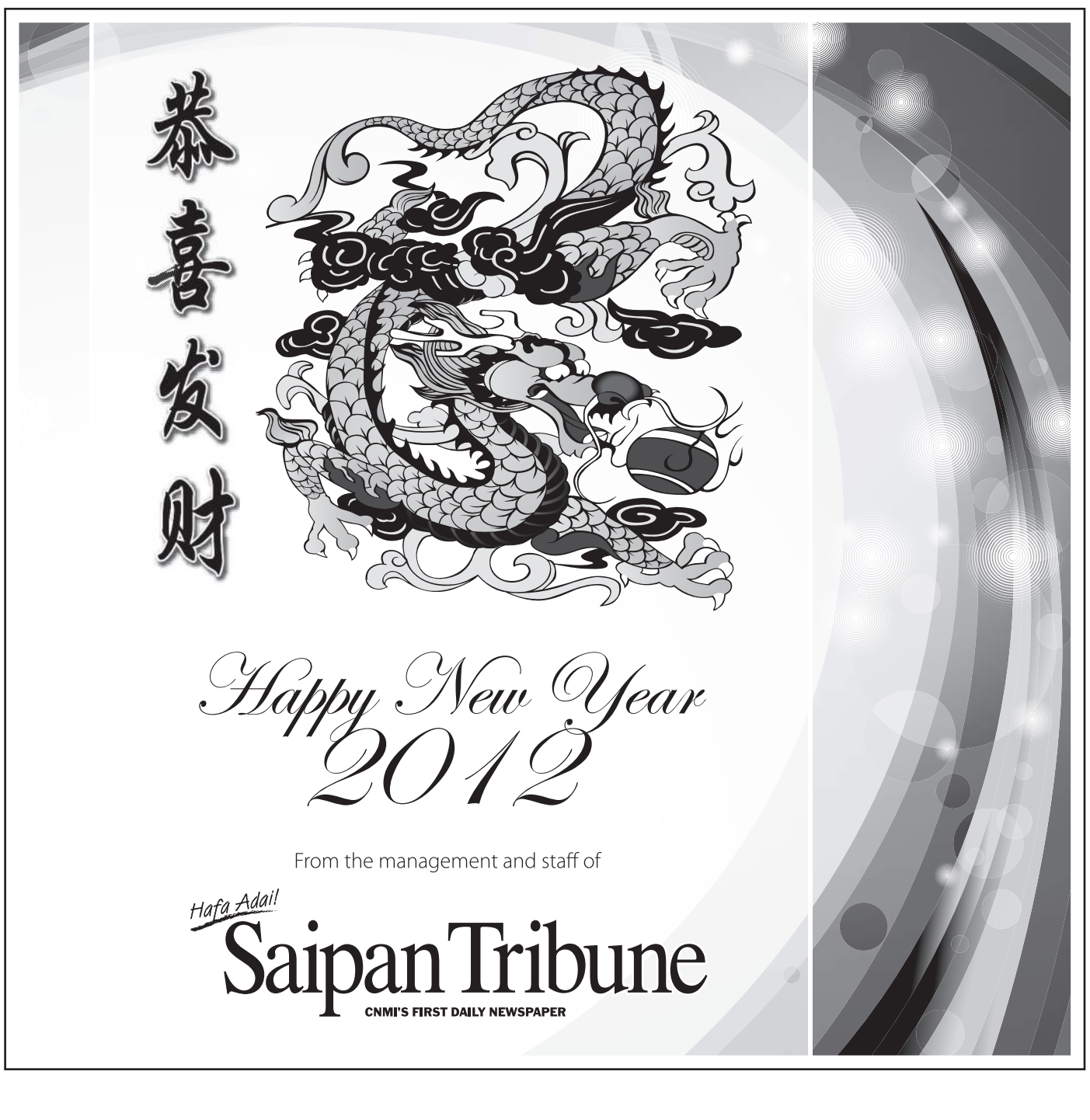
The governor believes that by repealing the Beneficiaries Derivative Act, the Fund can recover from its current situation and could be able to get back all its money managers and consultant.

Since the departure of Wilshire, the Fund attempted to find a new one but failed. Latest were the four proposers who were all described as non-responsive—or failed to meet the criteria and requirements of the request for proposals.

Last week, Fund chair Sixto Igisomar disclosed that estimated total portfolio of the pension plan is at $256.7 million, which the board intends to transfer to CDARS (certificate of deposit account registry service) while waiting for a new consultant to come in. Pursuant to law, the Fund is prohibited from making investment decisions without the advice of experts.

Wilshire was hired as investment consultant in October 2010. It replaced Merrill Lynch which served the pension agency for several years.

But in September 2011, Wilshire terminated its contract with the Fund as a result of the signing into law of the beneficiaries derivative act, which allows retirees and beneficiaries to sue on behalf of the Retirement Fund in case the pension agency's officials failed to do so. Besides the investment consultant, the agency also lost its actuarial consultant along with all its money managers.



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Monday, January 23, 2012

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11:00 am	Hyatt Hotel
11:30 am	Saipan Grand Hotel
12:00 pm	Canton Restaurant
12:18 pm	Gourmet Restaurant
3:00 pm	Subway (Gualo Rai)
4:08 pm	Crystal Palace
5:30 pm	Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan
7:00 pm	Star Sands Plaza
7:30 pm	Duty Free Shop
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IN LAWSUIT VS ATTY QUICHOCHO

Investor asks district court to amend dismissal order

An investor has moved the district court to amend the dismissal order in his lawsuit against attorney Ramon K. Quichocho and landowner Joaquin Q. Atalig.

Manglona

Sin Ho Nam, through counsel Colin M. Thompson, said the amendment is needed so that the U.S. District Court for the NMI can enforce the settlement agreement he entered with Quichocho and Atalig.

Thompson requested the court to include in the amended order the following language: "The Court retains jurisdiction to enforce the Settlement Agreement between the parties."

Thompson said there exists sufficient basis under the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure to amend the court's dismissal order issued on Oct. 18, 2011.

Thompson cited that the parties agreed that the court shall retain jurisdiction to enforcement the settlement agreement, and that the court intended to retain jurisdiction to enforce the settlement agreement.

On Dec. 27, 2011, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued an order denying for lack of jurisdiction Nam's motion to enforce the settlement agreement.

Manglona said a court has jurisdiction to enforce a settlement agreement only if it expressly retained such jurisdiction or otherwise embodied the settlement contract in the dismissal order.

Nam sued Quichocho and Atalig for breaching a land lease agreement when they terminated a 55-year lease less than two years later despite having already paid $218,000.

U.S. District Court for the NMI visiting judge Mark W. Bennett found Quichocho and Atalig liable to Nam for breach of contract.

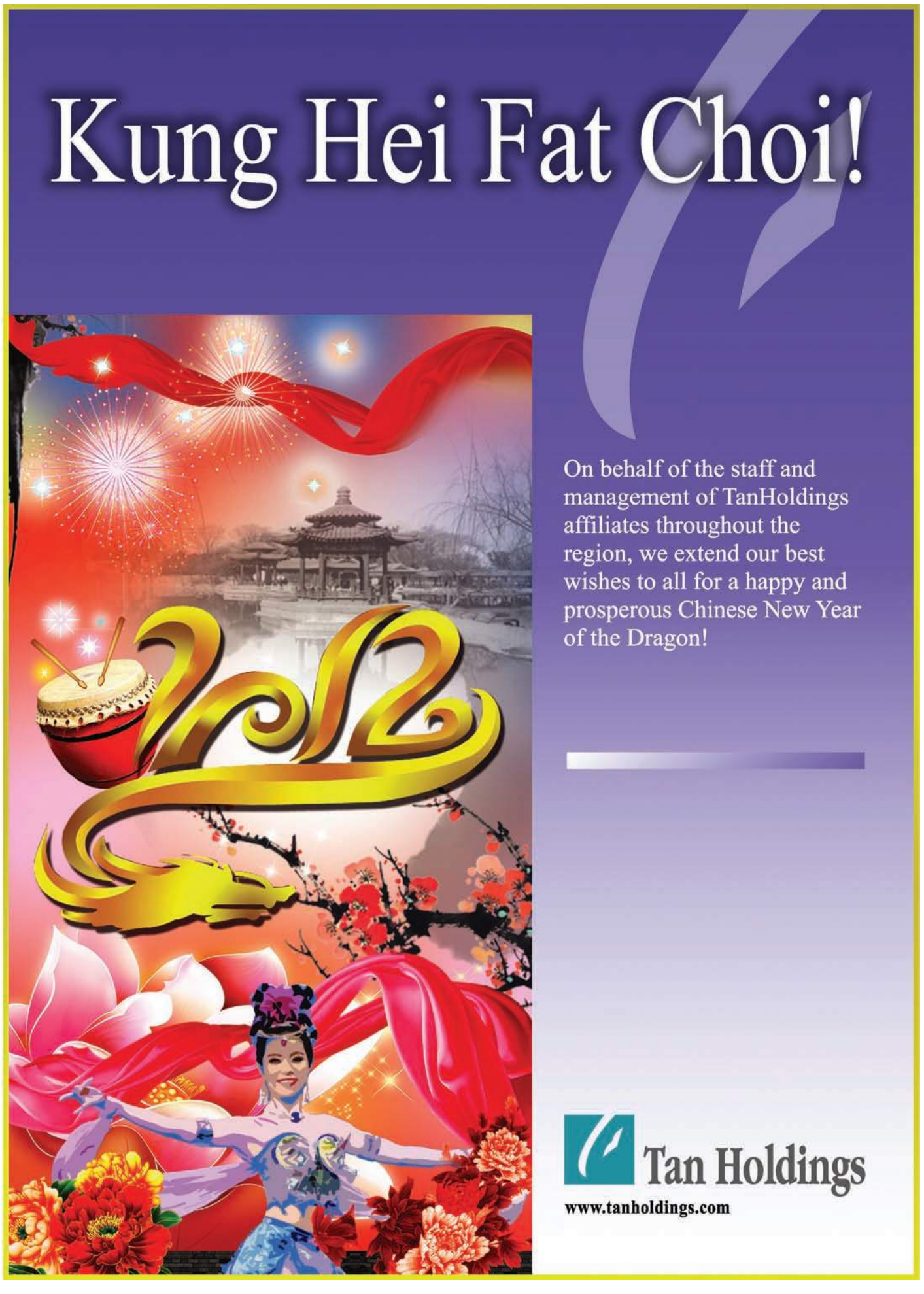
Bennett in his order stated that Nam's remedies or question of damages and the entirety of his claim for breach of fiduciary duty against Quichocho will proceed to trial.

On Sept. 12, 2011, Thompson and attorney Michael Dotts, counsel for Nam and Quichocho respectively, moved to dismiss all claims and counterclaims after they reached a settlement.

The terms of the settlement were not publicly disclosed.

On Oct. 18, 2011, Manglona dismissed the lawsuit following the parties' agreement.

On Nov. 15, 2011, Nam, through Thompson, requested the court to enforce their settlement agreement. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***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Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Jan. 23, 2001

PSS bats for 89% E-rate discount

The Public School System is requesting the US Schools and Libraries Division for an 89 percent telecommunications discount under its new E-rate application package.

In filing for a fresh E-rate discount, PSS hopes to secure this year access to additional funds that would make possible the establishment of a local area network to electronically connect all schools in the CNMI. PSS E-rate coordinator Nic Sablan said yesterday the increase in the percentage discount for 2001 is due to the high turnout of the E-rate surveys conducted on CNMI students eligible for the Federal Free and Reduced Price School Lunch Program, as well as other poverty programs.

PSS refines vocational program

Citing the need to address the growing labor market, the Public School System yesterday revised its Vocational Education Clustered Program to redefine the needs of the Commonwealth labor force. Late last year, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed into law House Bill 12-285 which extends the privilege of nonresident workers with special skills and qualifications to occupy hard-to-fill vacant positions within the CNMI government. The law aims to alleviate the critical situation currently facing the Commonwealth Health Center as well as other departments and agencies which rely on nonresident workers for certain hard-to-fill positions.

Jan. 23, 2002

Home loan program reaches out to low-income families

With already six clients availing of more than half-a-million dollars in home financing under the Home Loan Guaranteed Program, the Bank of Hawaii is taking the lead in giving low-to-moderate income-earners the chance to build their very own dream homes. As of January 18 this year, Rep. William S. Torres said the Bank of Hawaii has already granted a total of $623,500 in home financing loans since the US Department of Agriculture approved the Home Loan Guaranteed Program for the bank in July 2000. "The Bank of Hawaii received approval from the USDA to approve up to $1 million in guaranteed loans in July 2000 but the program was only fully implemented sometime in August last year due to the changing fiscal year cycle of the USDA. Since then, the bank has already served six clients and more are being scrutinized," said Torres.

Garment industry's competitiveness waning

Saipan's apparel industry spokesperson, Richard A. Pierce, recently asked the CNMI's new administration leaders to be cognizant of their industry's declining ability to compete in the world's apparel marketplace. Pierce, who is also currently president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, asked for the government's assistance in allowing foreign-owned companies here to continue to provide much needed revenue and jobs. In messages delivered during the inauguration events, and at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce installation ceremonies, Pierce asked CNMI Gov. Juan N. Babauta and House Speaker Heinz Hofschneider to consider economic relief for the Saipan factories that are finding it harder to compete for orders from customers in the United States.

Jan. 23, 2004

CNMI gets some $2M for home ownership program

The CNMI received some $1.9 million federal grant for local housing ownership and repair assistance program. This came following the approval of the CNMI's 2003 Action Plan submitted earlier to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development director Mark A. Chandler, in a recent letter to Gov. Juan N. Babauta, said the grant would ensure the formulation of stronger partnerships throughout the CNMI.

CUC medical benefits 'significantly low'

A survey has shown that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.' medical benefits to employees are "significantly below" the market. Fox Lawson and Associates, which CUC hired to assess and compare CUC's pay scale with other utility firms in the region and the U.S. mainland, said in its report that CUC employees are currently paying 76 percent of their medical benefits, while employees in the market are responsible for only 27 percent. "One element of the CUC's total compensation package that is significantly below the market is CUC's contribution to medical benefits," said FLA.

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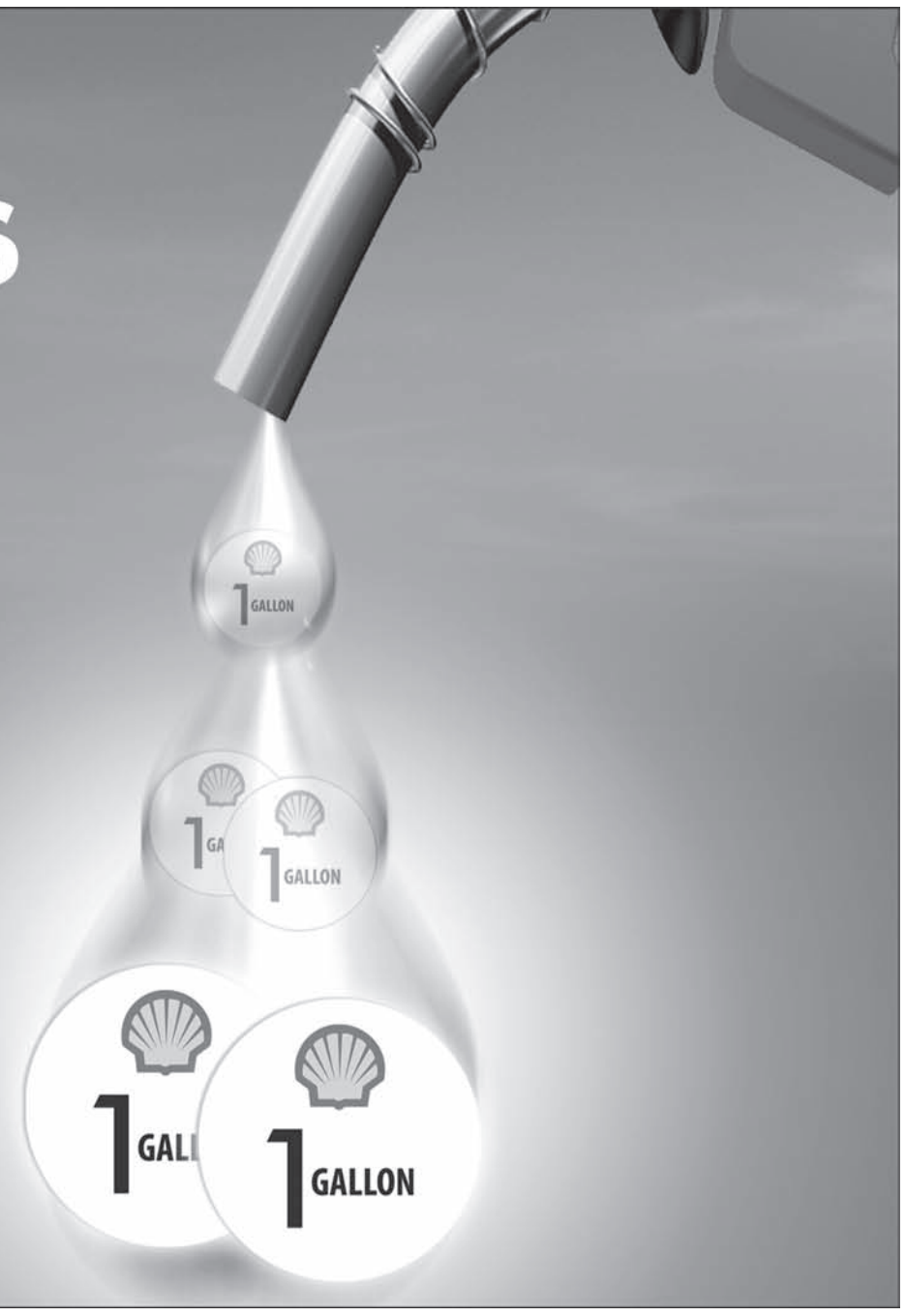

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Dangerous precedent for press freedom in Latin America

It seemed appropriate that President Rafael Correa of Ecuador was hosting Iran's Mahmoud Ahmadinejad on a state visit last week just as the Correa-controlled courts were poised to deliver another blow to freedom of the press. As in Iran and nearby Venezuela, the president seems to be waging an all-out drive to muzzle, if not destroy, the independent news media in his country.

Since becoming president, he has used all the powers at his disposal _ state-controlled media, rubber-stamp lawmakers, the courts and the presidency itself _ to intimidate the news media and put an end to criticism of his government. Ironically, in view of his autocratic record, the president feels he's been libeled by a newspaper column that called him a dictator.

Stung by a column in the 90-year-old El Universo, called "No to Lies," Mr. Correa filed a criminal defamation lawsuit last year. He asked the courts find the writer and the newspaper's directors guilty and sentence them to the maximum term of three years in prison, plus payment of $50 million. He sought $30 million more from El Universo's parent company.

The defamation case is the culmination of a campaign to silence Ecuador's press. It includes blacklisting some news organizations from receiving government ad revenue, creating a media-regulation board, closing the national TV station for a few days and taking control of three TV stations after they were seized in court proceedings against a failed bank.

The case against El Universo sets a terrible precedent by criminalizing free speech. Four months of closed-door hearings ensued after the lawsuit was filed, along with changing the judge overseeing the case four times. Seeking to save their newspaper, the directors offered to run a correction, to be written by the president, but Mr. Correa rejected it.

Although the trial record ran to 5,000-some pages, the judge delivered a 156-page verdict against the defendants within 24 hours. That prompted the newspaper to file a criminal malfeasance complaint against the judge based on the allegation that he did not write his own ruling. A forensic analysis of his computer led a U.S. consultant hired by the defense to conclude that the ruling was written by the president's own lawyer.

Despite this, the columnist and El Universo's directors were sentenced to three years in prison and ordered to pay the president $30 million. The newspaper was ordered to pay an additional $10 million. In September, an appeals court upheld the verdict, and in December another appeals court, the National Court of Justice, further upheld the specific verdict against the author, Emilio Palacio. By that time, he had already fled the country for Miami.

The appeal by executives of the paper has yet to be heard. Waging a vigorous defense, they have filed a motion challenging the judges selected to hear the case, claiming they are biased on behalf of the president. The president's backers seem confident they'll win. Earlier this month, Vice President Lenin Moreno said Ecuador's press will have to be more careful after the court announces its ruling.

The eventual outcome of the case will be crucial to freedom of the press in Ecuador and throughout Latin America.

Affirming the verdict would send a message to others in Ecuador to get in line or risk losing their livelihood. And if a president's most outspoken critics in the news media can be silenced by the courts in one country, other presidents who share Mr. Correa's thin skin and authoritarian zeal may seek to do the same.

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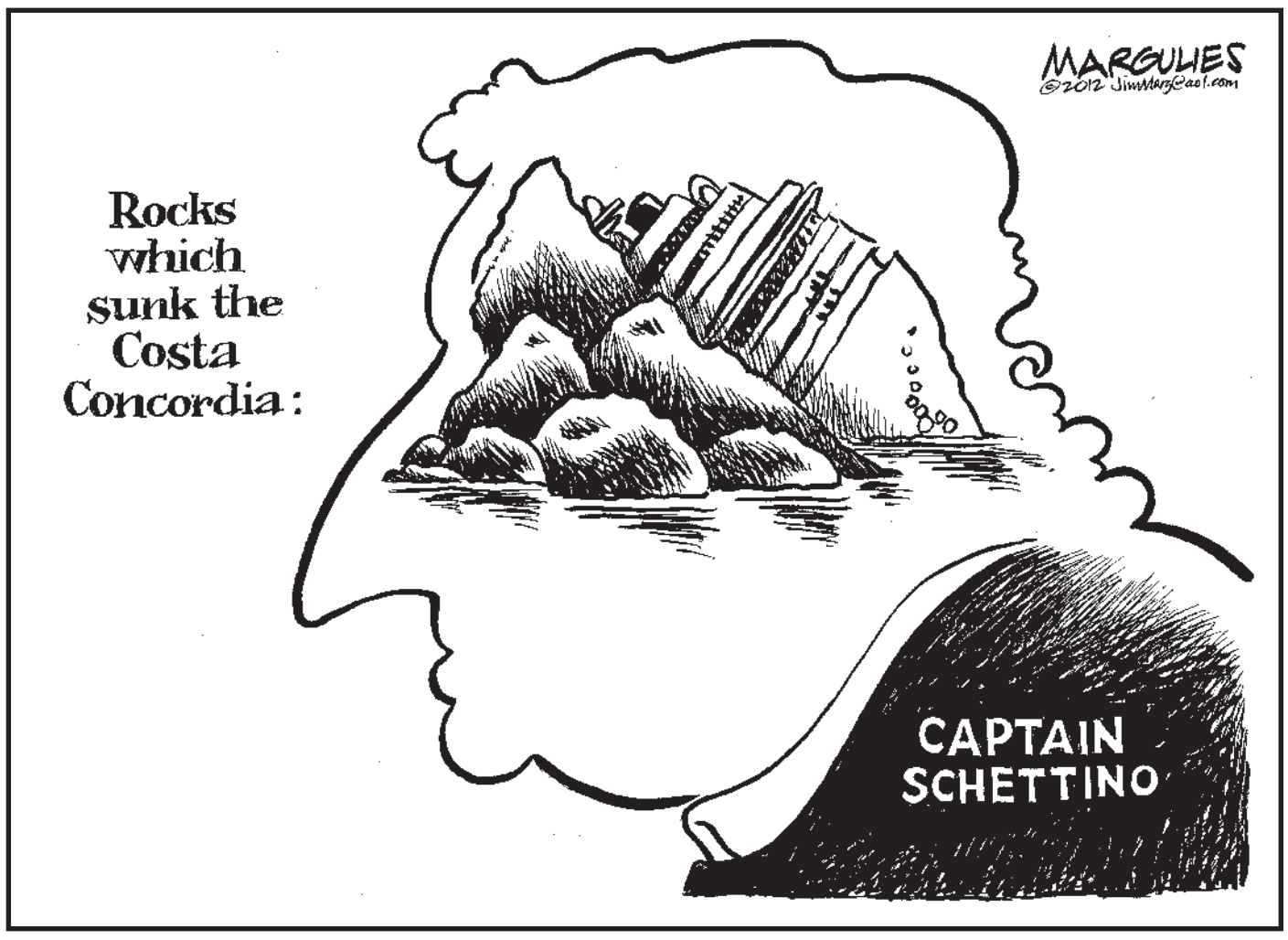


The time for a revolution is now!—Part 1

By ANTHONY PELLEGRINO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Pellegrino is a longtime businessman in the CNMI and is a former president of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

The time for a revolution in our community is now! No, no, I am not using the word "revolution" in the sense of the overthrow of a political organization. I am using it to mean creating activities or movements designed to effect fundamental changes in the dismal socioeconomic situation that we are in now. The word "revolution" also means a fundamental change in the way of thinking or visualizing something. This year we must revolutionize our activities and thinking to create a healthy socioeconomic climate in the CNMI!

We must become revolutionaries that will create new socioeconomic activities. We must find new ways of creating economic opportunities. Not only must we visualize new ideas but implement them. The time has come. Let us break the chains of fear and march forward! I may sound corny, but I truly believe that we can do it.

We must and will help ourselves because we have the assets to do so. By creating the will and determination to do so, the revolution will happen. The following discussion will explain how we can make this become a reality. But first a brief overview of how we got into the predicament we are in now.

In rereading portions of *The History of the Northern Marianas Islands* by Don Farrell, it is apparent that for centuries our basic occupations had been farming and fishing. These two activities supplied the food to sustain hundreds of thousands of people for centuries in the CNMI. This work was done by the local people, not outsiders.

However after the war and the introduction of Western ways, these two activities began to wane. Here is a quote from Mr. Farrell's book from page 488:

"Saipan's immediate post-war economy was based on the employment of Chamorros and Carolinians as office workers, and as skilled and unskilled laborers. This created a cash economy that allowed stores and other businesses to develop in Chalan Kanoa. As the islanders grew accustomed to working for the government, they spent less time farming and fishing. They relied to a great extent on American canned goods from the stores. Beer became a popular commodity. In 1950 the Northern Islands imported $22,000 worth of rice and $21,000 of beer.

"This was really a false economy, as virtually nothing was being produced or manufactured. The Chamorros and Carolinians earned money from the Americans, but the Americans would eventually be sent home. When the bases were finally closed in the spring of 1950, many of the islanders lost their jobs. With fewer jobs providing less cash, many of the stores had to close. The Chamorros and Carolinians were forced back to their farms to earn a subsistence living.

"Living off the land was much more difficult than before the war. Most of the coconut trees, breadfruit trees and banana plants had been destroyed. The soil was ruined. The cattle, pigs, and goats were dead. It was many years before these problems were overcome."

As noted above we had become hooked on buying our food more and more from stores already processed and in cans. This was then washed down with beer. This transformation from an agriculture society to our current modern ways has made us dependent upon outside sources for almost all of our food. Today only a few of us farm or raise animals, and those of us that do, do mostly as a hobby, not a livelihood.

Another cultural transformation took place at the same time that we began to shift from farming and fishing. We began to clamor for government jobs because they were easy and paid instant money. A few years ago when the economy was strong, I recall speaking to several high school classes. I asked the students what their goals were after graduation from high school. Almost every student raised his hand and shouted: "I want to work in the government!" So today most of us still cling to this dying institution of government employment for our livelihood.

To really better understand how we arrived where we are today, please buy or borrow a copy of Don's great book: The History of the Northern Islands. Read especially "Chapter 14, Post-War Government." It will refresh our memory and help us realize that we had better help ourselves or we will always be in an economic depression and dependent upon outsiders as beggars. What has happened to a proud and determined people?

Later the United States created a Headnote Three program. We all know the story of the rise and fall of the garment industry so I will not relate it here. We also know that the majority of local workers employed in the industry were known as "ghost workers" who showed up only on payday for their salary. Locals were necessary because the industry was required to meet local labor minimum quota. Few of the local labor force did any real labor in the factories. The real workers were imported.

Here are today's results after years of working in the government: three or four days a week of work, over 20 percent drop in salary, loss of pension, no desire or love for the work assigned, destruction of any incentive for self-betterment, dramatic increase in welfare recipients, and little farming and fishing. But we have acquired a huge mental and economic depression! This is where we are now!

Today we have fallen into another trap. We have become prey to foreign investors. We beg them to come to our islands. By pouring their money here, we continue to give up any attempt to help

See THE TIME on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Happy New Year! May you be prosperous!

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Jaime R. Vergara (jrvergarajr2031@aol.com) previously taught at San Vicente Elementary School on Saipan and is currently a guest lecturer at Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

The Putunghua greeting xīnnián kuàilè gōngxǐ fācái is heard around the world today, and with the global recession hitting below the belt worldwide, China remains conservatively upbeat with its confident economic management in spite of the not-too-rosy prognosis on trade and industry in the coming year.

The Year of the Dragon follows the lunisolar Chinese calendar. The nongli agricultural calendar marks festive and significant events while the gongli common calendar is used for day-to-day reckoning. It is year 4649 or 4709/4710 in the Yin/Moon continuous calendar (depending upon the starting epoch), and 2012 in Yang/Sun Gregorian calendar following the Anno Domini of the Christian dramaturgy.

There are two main thrusts of the aforementioned greeting. The first is on the "new", and the second, on "prosperity" and/or "happiness".

The emphasis on the "new" begins with finances. The New Year requires that one meet all outstanding obligations. Confucian charity is akin to the Jewish sense of jubilee where indebtedness is wiped out as if payments are no longer necessary. Of course, the debtor loses face but collection attempt is not made. The debtor, however, can restore social standing by meeting his obligations while the loaner graciously acquiesce without remorse or rancor.

The other emphasis is on "prosperity", which translates to wealth. Enumeration of "life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness" is a constitutionally protected right more than just an endearing principle from the American founding fathers. The "pursuit of happiness" to New World residents from Europe meant the right to freely own land; they were not allowed to own property without sovereign say so. In the same vein, when the Chinese wishes someone "happiness," that generally means the presence of material wealth.

Dwelling is high on that priority, more so in the relationship of the land to the landless. Ownership of land is an achievement of a high order, and in the socialist structure where the means of production belongs to the state, access to real estate has sadly left a few with Mercedes Benzes while many rural folks are unhappy with the undervalued and often capricious appropriation of their land holdings for communal development. The alienation of the same for public works that benefits only a few (like government-owned sports complexes that only a few can afford) is not popular either.

The Chinese New Year also triggers new adornment, more so now that jewelry is used to hedge against monetary decline; there is attraction of precious metals and rare art tangibles. China's new five-year emphasis includes the inclusion and promotion of the nation's art in the country's economy.

By the end of Jan. 22 when the Year of the Rabbit ushers the Year of the Dragon at midnight, dwellings are sparkling clean, clothings are brand new (red being the preferred color for the night), and people look forward to the establishment of new relationships.

Every New Year reveler wishes for physical wellbeing plus the enjoyment of abundant and good food. Health is wealth.

Much as the story of Lady Luck in the metaphor of superstition plays a major role on individual decisions, we are clear that in reality the complex confluence of chance, cause, and choice is at work.

Meeting the Year of the Dragon in the CNMI is more than just allowing the remaining Chinese stragglers in the CNMI to pop their firecrackers. Chinese workers who segued into other engagement in the Commonwealth are here to stay, and if determined attempts to sail into Guam are any indication, the least we can do is to aid remnants of the garment industry (we exploited their cheap labor) to find ways for a path to join the U.S. family. If their only option is to join Falun Gong/Dafa to qualify for asylum, that might get rare talents on Shen Yan, but we would fail to benefit from useful skills that are already with us.

In the last decade, I watched CNMI's brain drain into continental North America. Homesteads originally intended for young families remain unutilized left in the care of elders, or worst, abandoned. A wit quipped that the smart migrated while the incompetents stayed behind to be elected into office. That's not really fair. We did elect the likes of a Tina Sablan to remind ourselves that there are brainy, sensible, and compassionate local human resources who are on island that we have not yet driven into the abyss of cynicism.

A lot of our energy are wasted in internecine fights between Uncles Ben/Eloy and their followers on home turf, unfairly, against Kilili's solitary but effective/efficient delivery of federal benefits. We are a recipient economy rather than a productive enterprise, and until we are on sure footing in the shifting currents of the global economy, we might heed the challenge of the Year of the Dragon: to move on to what is new. Rather than be wisecracking ever-whining midnight chroniclers of doom, we may start visioning prosperous endeavors. We may want our leaders to lead the way.

Xīnnián kuàilè gōngxǐ fācái!

Grasian Tautau-ta siha

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.*

Gi 'nai pagu matutuhon mapake Saipan ni balan ginen i batku siha, duru i dos umasagua de umensinahyau, malalagu gi halom ñeti para i liyañg gi fina' hogsu'. I mina' tres biahe 'nai matompu' i lahe ya hinegsi mona ni asaguaña, ha birague ya ha faisen: "Hafa, Maria, esta para puru ha' hotse', taya' esta para falagu?"

■■■

Ma-arresta un' sutteritu pot bulacheria. Finaisen ni sarentu hafa ginimeña. Ilegña i prohimu, "Budweiser". Ginacha' i amku' tiha tuñgu madiletran Budweiser. Pues ha faisen i patrolman para u chinilie' halom un' tai sinahguan na lata.

Finaisen tatte para hafague' latan Budweiser. Sinablasus, "Esta hu tatagu' hau na un' chulie'yu mage latan sitbesa. Taya' bisnesmu kumetuñgu usuña". Mattu dispues i patrolman yan latan sitbesa. Ha chule' i sarentu ya ha kopia i letran Budweiser halom gi repotña. De dios!

■■■

Mana' fan pasehu i man-malañgu para i hagas Daie na tenda hihot yan Pagoda Hotel giya Honolulu. Mafaisen un' bihu hafa malago'ña para u fahan. Ilegña na dos kinihutu para i asaguaña. 'Nai ha soda', ha botsa gi santatte na betsaña. Malefa ti ha apase.

Gi kineyuñg niha, man-estaba kantidan polisia gi entrada. 'Nai man-estaba esta gi halom kareta, mamaisen i amku' haf" na bula polisia gi tenda. Sinañgane ni draiba na ma-espipha un' tautau ni chumule' dos kinihutu ya ti ha apase. Ensegidas i amku' ha yuti' i kinihutu gi papa' siya. Dispues, sige fumofu, "Taimamahlau, tatpalu kinihutu". Che'chu' tramposu!

■■■

Ma'udai un' Chamorun Guam gi taxi. 'Nai mattu gi hegsu' Terlaje, ha faisen i draiba haye-gue' na familia. Ineppe ensegidas, "Familian ga'ga!" Hineñgañg i prohimu ya mamatkilu.

Dispues, ha atrebigue' talu fumaisen, "Dispensayu amigu, pot parentela na mamamaisen-yu'". Sinablasus talu tatte, "Familian ga'ga. Nanahu si Tan Marian Paluma, tatahu si Tun Juan Manog". Ai, maulegña buente ti mamaisen.

■■■

Man-makone' man-malañgu para i offisinan gobietnu para u fan man-bisita. Estaba lokue' guihe i defuntu as Serafin Kamiyama. Finaisen ni gobietnu para u kantaye i grupu. Ti matman: "Jingle bells, jingle...of what fun a Lexus ride..." Ha atalaghe ham i gobietnu ya mamaisen kau hame fumanague i prohimu ni kantaña. Grasia guihe na oga'an. A` Saina! ---

Ma-faisen i ginen presidenten iya Filipinas hafa kumeke ilegña "bacteria". Ensegidas ha oppe, "Guiya 'nau i tatten kafeteria". A` Saina!

■■■

Sige si pale' ha espiha i chalan i Post Office. Ha lie' tropan famaguon ya ha faisen manu chalaña i PO. Mafanue'. Dispues ha sañgane i famaguon, "Un' dia, bai' fanue' hamyu ni chalan i lañget". Ilegña un' pitbetsu, "Hmmm! Hombre chalan i Post Office ti siña un' danche kuandu menos i lañget". A` Saina!

■■■

Malalade si Nanu' pot ha usa i kemon famalao'an. "Ma-momye todu na ayu na komun para usun famalao'an solu?" Ha atan papa' i yippa' kasunesña dispues ilegña, "Este lokue' ha nesessita i kemon". A` Saina!

■■■

Man-afaisen i tropa hafa mohon ya guakan halom kolat ham ni listu para u fan mabende. Sige man-a'atan haf' na kuetpu guinahan todus.

Ilegña i unu, siempre ma-upos-yu' sa' loka', masogsug yan kachasa sinsen-hu. Ha atan i otru ya ilegña na kumu para fritada, mauleg si Kindu' sa' dikiki', ridondu yan mañaña' sinseña. Umaya yan tininun lemai sa' mi-mantika.

Dispues, ha atan un' amigon mame ya ilegña na siempre guiya finenina mafahan sa mauleg para kaddun to'lañg, piot sa' anaku' yan mi-gugat sañotña. Siempre mi-getmun koyenturaña ni paire yan finadeni'. A` Saina.

■■■

Malalagu un' Chamorro para i Post Office 'nai pinidoñguan ni kattaña. Ha hatsa hulu' dispues ha repara na guaha siha malefaña. Ha faisen amiguña Tagalu hafa para u pega. Sinañgane na u tuge' ha' PS, dispues esplika i tetehnan. Inatan ni Chamorro ya finaisen, "Hafa 'nau i PS?". Ineppe, "Ai, Porgot Something!" De dios mihu!

THE TIME

From Page 10

ourselves. Foreign investors are needed, but not as the backbone of our economy or country. More hotels, more attractions, more shops and other businesses, yes. But where do we fit into all of these? Do we own even one share of these businesses? Why do we still beg to become government employees?

Again I question: how many grocery stores, how many auto repair shops, how many beauty and barber shops, how many restaurants, and how many other kinds of businesses do we own? Aren't most of these owned by foreigners? Why are they not owned and operated by us? Why do we continue to cling to the myth that the government is the only job we can do? We act as a child refusing to leave his mother's womb.

As a quick side-note: I came to Saipan on Jan. 14, 1984, (28 years ago) with a dream in my pocket and a vision of acres of diamonds under my feet. I have picked up some of the diamonds you have trodden upon. After 28 wonderful years of enjoyable living here, I still see acres of diamonds under our feet.

Let's continue this discussion next week when we talk about what we can do to revitalize our economy and uplift our spirits. Meanwhile consider what an air cargo bridge between the islands will create. Consider the many jobs that will be created by growing fruits and produce. Consider what a slaughterhouse will do. Consider the number of animals to be raised and the number of more jobs to be created by having the ability to produce USDA meat to be sold locally as well as exported. Consider the amount of money that will be imported to our islands. These and more are all in our grasp!

Another point I wish us to consider until we meet next Monday is this. Culture inevitably changes, with or without, involvement of outsiders. However, having people from outside the community in positions of respect and influence can have a major effect. Information and technologies also have a major effect. This leads to many dilemmas. An important question for any development program is: Is this effect positive or negative and to what extent?

After reading this far you understand the message: We can and must become self-sufficient. There is no other way. We must grow up and see the acres of diamonds around us. Meanwhile let's share our huge SMILE with everybody we meet. Our SMILE is a great treat. Let's do it!

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼77°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°

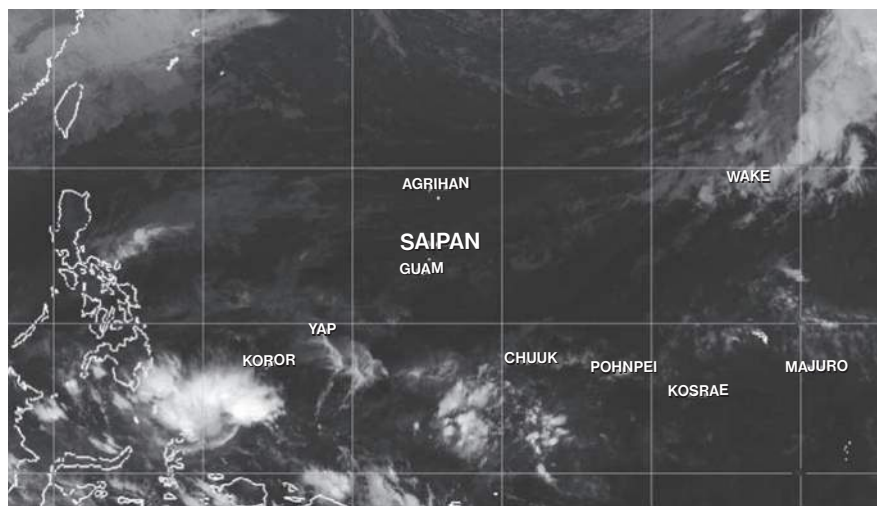
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼77
Yap	Showers	▲87	▼78
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲85	▼79
Kosrae	Showers	▲85	▼79
Majuro	Thunderstorms	▲84	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲69	▼59
Beijing	Sunny	▲33	▼ 8
Hong Kong	Showers	▲55	▼51
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼69
London	Mostly Sunny	▲47	▼41
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼45
Manila	Partly Cloudy	▲86	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲95	▼65
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲81	▼62
New York	Showers	▲51	▼36
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲45	▼36
Paris	Cloudy	▲48	▼41
Pusan	Mostly Sunny	▲37	▼21
Rome	Partly Cloudy	▲62	▼46
Salem	Rain	▲45	▼40
San Francisco	Showers	▲57	▼44
Seoul	Sunny	▲26	▼13
Tokyo	Ice	▲40	▼33
Washington, DC	Showers	▲55	▼37

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2012
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A cold front extends southwestward from northwest of Wake Island at 25N163E to south of Minami Tori Shima at 19N155E then continues west-southwestward as a shear line passing Anatahan at 16N146E to end at 15N130E. Extensive clouds with widespread rain and isolated thunderstorms are occurring near the cold front north of a line from 17N158E to 22N172E. Patchy clouds and showers are found along and up to 150 miles north of the shear line. An old shear line runs southwestward from near Guam at 13N147E to end northwest of Koror at 9N133E. Patchy clouds and light rain are seen along and up to 100 miles northwest of this feature. A near-equatorial trough stretches southeastward from Mindanao through 4N130E and a weak circulation centered south of Koror at 2N135E to end at EQ142E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms associated with the circulation are present southwest of Koror within 50 miles of 3N132E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers southwest of Chuuk within 100 miles of a line from EQ152E to 6N150E and also over Majuro between 5N and 10N from 170E to 180.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

1:37 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.5 Feet
8:35 AM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet
2:03 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
7:02 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.0 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:47 AM	6:10 PM
Tuesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Wednesday	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Thursday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM
Friday	6:47 AM	6:12 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	6:21 AM	6:08 PM
Tuesday	7:08 AM	7:03 PM
Wednesday	7:51 AM	7:56 PM
Thursday	8:31 AM	8:46 PM
Friday	9:10 AM	9:35 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 11, 2012

DEPARTURES

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05062	2:10am	2:40am	1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)			
C05064	4:15am	4:50am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	4:15am	5:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068	8:25am	9:15am	Daily
C05074	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05076	3:10pm	4:00pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	6:50pm	7:40pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078	7:00pm	7:50pm	3, 6
C05072	9:55pm	10:45pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072	10:05pm	10:55pm	3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)			
DL287	6:00am	8:40am	Daily
DL285	6:35am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7
DL297	4:25pm	7:15pm	Daily
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)			
OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)			
OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ604	3:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)			
OZ608	3:35am	7:05am	4, 7
DL581	4:10am	7:30am	1, 5
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)			
OZ606/701	2:10am	11:15am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:15am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05070/191	4:35am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:00am	10:25pm	Daily via NRT
C05068/183	8:25am	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05068/183	8:25am	9:40pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:25pm	2, 5 via GUM
C05076/183	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 4, 7 via GUM
C05076/193	3:10pm	11:00pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN
C05072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 5, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111	10:05pm	7:50am+1	3, 6 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)			
OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C05076/147	3:10pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:30pm	Daily via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	10:50pm	Daily via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
C05064	5:15am	5:45am	1, 5
ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
C05062	3:10am	3:45am	1, 5
GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
C05062	2:10am	3:45am	1, 5 via ROP
C05069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05071	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C05073	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05075	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:30pm	6:20pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05077	5:40pm	6:30pm	3, 6
C05079	8:35pm	9:25pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05079	8:45pm	9:35pm	3, 6
NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL288	8:40pm	1:15am+1	Daily
DL286	7:40pm	12:20am+1	2, 4, 6, 7
OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN			
OZ120	9:50pm	2:20am+1	Daily
SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN			
OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
DL580	10:10pm	2:55am+1	4, 7
GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
DL172/288	8:00am	1:15am+1	Daily via NRT
C0190/5077	10:55am	6:30pm	3, 6 via GUM
C0190/5079	10:55am	9:35pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	12:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C05071	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0192/5071	10:25pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C0184/5071	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ704/603	11:40pm	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
C0184/5071	11:59pm	7:50am+1	2, 5 via GUM
HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:15pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0180/5071	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

Chinese community welcomes Year of Water Dragon

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Chinese New Year celebrations are never complete without traditional sweets and delicacies such as tikoy, raddish cake, sweetened ginger and carrots, as well as symbols of prosperity like Choy, the god of money, and tangerine leaves.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Experience Chinese culture at its finest today as they feast and delight worldwide in celebrating one of their most important occasions: the welcoming of Lunar New Year, more popularly known as the Chinese New Year.

This year's celebration marks the end of the Year of the Rabbit, to be replaced by the arrival of the Year of the Water Dragon, a mythical animal that many Chinese reckon as powerful and will bring in good luck for the rest of the year.

Rose Chan of the Chinese Association of Saipan, an organization established in 1987, said that the dragon has had 8,000 years of rich and colorful history among the Chinese, who are believed to be descendants of the fire-breathing creature.

"Many Chinese stories tell a lot about dragons, which symbolize intelligence and power. It can fly in the sky, stand on land, stay in the ocean. It can do anything; it's a miraculous character," Chan told *Saipan Tribune*.

The high regard of Chinese on a dragon's abilities, Chan said, is enough for them to believe that the New Year will be a better one for all.

"We're wishing that the Year of the Water Dragon would bring CNMI and the rest of the world good health and better economy so we can all be prosperous and happy all the time and that everybody can live together peacefully," said Chan.

Chan said the Lunar New Year festivities will not be complete without the customs and traditions of Chinese in celebrating this important occasion.

Firstly, Chan said Chinese are mostly occupied with cleaning the house and getting rid of clutter days before the New Year. "It is lucky to have a clean house before the New Year so you can have a clean start."

Chan also said that Chinese New Year celebrations are filled with the color red, the color of Lunar New Year among Chinese as it symbolizes prosperity. "We always wear red," said Chan, who added that she will be garbed in a traditional Chinese dress in red today.

Businessman Ta Bun Kuy, whose companies include Dollar Days, Serenity Salon & Spa, and Chow Queen Bakery, said he and his wife Nenita prepare different kinds of round fruits as they also denote good fortune.

"Another practice I do each year is to have a full rice container so that it will always remain full throughout the year," added Ta.

Chinese New Year banquets are never complete without traditional sweets and delicacies served in round platters to signify wealth throughout the year. Chan said that each year, the Chinese Association of Saipan imports from China or Hong Kong the rice cake called tikoy, raddish cake, sesame ball, deep fried dumplings, sweetened carrots, lotus seeds, and ginger, among others, and serve them on the table.

"Sweets are served so that things will run smoothly and bring out good feelings at the start of the year," explained Ta. "After all, people like sweets."

Meanwhile, Chan said the sticky delicacies such as rice cakes are also a staple at a Chinese New Year feast because it is believed that doing so would bring people closer to one another, bringing about unity and harmony.

Households and business establishments are also transformed every Lunar New Year as they become adorned with lucky symbols such as tangerine leaves, red lanterns, and posters of Choy, the god of money.

Chinese New Year festivities on Saipan are highlighted by the propitious lion dance, and Chan said the Chinese Association of Saipan, which sponsors the lion dance on island, will have a full schedule today when it visits various businesses and households in hopes of a lucky year ahead.

The lion dance concludes with the giving of the red envelope—called *hongbao* in Mandarin and *lai see* in Cantonese—which contains money and is placed inside the mouth of the lion's head.

"Most important of all is to welcome the New Year with a positive attitude," Ta emphasized. "While we follow these customs and traditions, we should not forget that we also need to make things happen by doing something. It is never too late to do it."

Ta also called on the community leaders to make things happen by working together. "The Year of the Rabbit was filled with challenges such as rising cost of utilities, immigration issues, and natural disasters. But I feel that this year is going to be good. If the government leaders will work together, it will actually be much better."

Chan concurred, adding that people should remember that hope springs eternal. "Don't give up. Always have hope—hope that this year, things will improve for all of us."

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to Joshua Calixterio Mostales and many more exciting years to come! Enjoy your day. We love you very much! Love always, Daddy, Ms. Kate, Naomi, JC, family, and friends from Portland, Oregon.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

BEFORE THE COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
ELECTRIC DIVISION — **DOCKET 09-1**
WATER AND WASTEWATER DIVISIONS — **DOCKET 12-01**

AMENDED: CHANGE OF DATE/TIME: NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

ATTENTION: THIS NOTICE AMENDS THE PRIOR NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING: PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE AND TIME FOR THIS COMMISSION HEARING.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at **9:00 a.m. on January 25, 2012**, the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission *[Commission]* will conduct a public hearing at the Retirement Fund Building Conference Room, Capitol Hill to receive evidence, argument, discussion and public comment on the following regulatory matters concerning the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation *[CUC]*. **The Hearing shall convene at 9 am through 2:30 pm. The Commission will recess at that time. The Hearing shall continue on the next day, January 26, 2012 at 9 am, if necessary, until completed.**

1. CUC Electric Division [Docket 09-1].

The Commission will examine CUC's December 8, 2011 petition for base rate relief, which requests that effective on or about February 20, 2012 its electric base rate revenues [which do not include fuel revenue, as discussed below] be increased on an annualized basis by about $7.9 million, which would increase the average residential ratepayer's monthly electric bill by about $6.87. CUC proposes that the additional revenue to be produced by this rate increase be allocated to its three customer classes *[residential, commercial and government]* in the manner set forth in its public notice, as published in the Saipan Tribune and Marianas Variety on December 21, 2011. CUC asserts that this increased base revenue is just, reasonable and necessary to enable it to address: a] the statutory mandate that it bill and collect adequate rate revenue to recover the costs associated with the operation and delivery of electric service, including financial reserves; b] the requirements of the Federal Stipulated Order dated March 11, 2009, in *USA v. CUC and CNMI;* c] declining revenues resulting from decreased loads; and d]additional revenue requirements imposed by Retirement Fund assessments; CDA payments and Telesource Change Order No. 5.

The Commission will also consider at the hearing the following requests by the Electric Division for regulatory action: a] amendment of the levelized energy adjustment clause [LEAC] tariff, as established by Commission order dated December 19, 2008, in order to transition to a monthly rate and to authorize the establishment of separate LEAC rates for each customer class; b] establishment of a new LEAC rate to be effective January 27, 2012 of $0.29579 per kWh; c] reconciliation of all prior LEAC assessments through September 30, 2011; d] establishment of a new street lighting tariff with the following monthly rates: long arm $11.67; short arm $8.33; and LED $10.83, which should apply to all public and private security lighting customers; e] approval of the Independence Bank loan; f] establishment of a new net metering tariff; g] establishment of a new municipal pumping station customer class; h] approval of a memorandum of understanding between CUC and the CNMI government regarding the payment of outstanding utility bills; i] approval of a security services contract; j] amendment of the contract review protocol, as established by Commission order dated December 19, 2008; and k] further suspension of CUC's duty to comply with statutory renewable energy portfolio standards under 4 CMC §8624(b).

2. CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions [Docket 12-01].

The Commission will also examine CUC's October 10, 2011 petition to increase its water and wastewater rates, effective on or about February 20, 2012. CUC proposes an increase to its unmetered water fixed charge and to its wastewater monthly service fee and volumetric charges, in amounts set forth in its December 21, 2011 public notice. In addition, CUC proposes that new water and wastewater energy charges be established, which would enable these divisions to pass through to customers the actual cost of their electricity expense. CUC estimates that the initial water energy charge would be $2.11 per 1,000 gallons and that the initial wastewater energy charge would be $2.68 per 1,000 gallons. The aggregate impact of these proposed increases on the average monthly residential water bill would be about $6.73 and about $34.11 on the average monthly residential wastewater bill. CUC asserts these proposed water and wastewater rate increases are just, reasonable and necessary.

The Commission will also consider at the hearing the following additional requests by the Divisions for regulatory action: a] the establishment of three new water and wastewater customer classes: multi-family customers; municipal pumping customers; and public school system; b] a new $50 sewer dumping charge; c] a new $50 wastewater inspection/testing charge; d] the November 8, 2011 petition of Senator Juan Ayuyu for establishment of a $0.25 per thousand gallon agricultural water usage rate for commercial farmers and ranchers in areas where there is 24 hour water available and a flat $25 monthly rate in areas where 24 hour water service is not available; and e] several amendments to its service rules and regulations, as discussed in CUC's December 21, 2011 public notice.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION regarding these rate petitions and requests for regulatory action, the public is referred to: a] CUC's December 21, 2011 notice, as published in the Marianas Variety and in the Saipan Tribune; and b] the testimony and documentary evidence, which is available for public review at CUC's administrative office on the 3rd floor, Joeten Dandan Building and at its Tinian and Rota offices. The Commission has tasked its independent regulatory consultant *[Georgetown]* to investigate and comment on the above CUC requests. As a result this review and in furtherance a prehearing conference between CUC and Georgetown, they will present by stipulation, at the **January 25, 2012** public hearing, joint recommendations for Commission action on the above CUC requests. This stipulation will be available for public inspection on and after January 19, 2012 at the offices of Georgetown's legal counsel, Mr. Robert Torres, Esq. Plata Drive, Whispering Palms, Saipan – phone number 670-234-7859 and will also be available at the public hearing.

THE COMMISSION WELCOMES THE PUBLIC'S ATTENDANCE at its January 21, 2012 public hearing and will welcome public comments at the conclusion of the hearing. Persons who desire to formally participate in the hearing pursuant to 4 CMC § 8409(j) should on or before January 17, 2012 file with the Commission at the offices of Mr. Robert Torres, Esq. *[see above contact information]* an application and offer of proof in accordance with 4 CMC §8409(j) and Commission Procedural Rule 11(c). Subsequent to the public hearing, the Commission will schedule, notice and conduct a special business meeting to consider and make decisions regarding matters considered at the public hearing. Further information about the public hearing and the public's right to participate may be obtained from the office of Mr. Robert Torres, Esq.

AGO tells public to beware of email scams

The Office of the Attorney General is warning the public against email scams. Its civil division chief Gil Birnbrich said a government employee recently received the following email, which was sent from the email account of an acquaintance. The message, however, was not written by the acquaintance. The email reads:

Hello,

How are you, I hope all is well with you?, I feel very ashamed reaching you this way and also very sorry for not informing you about my trip to United Kingdom to complete a project and spend my vacation, I am presently in Manchester City and am having a great difficulties to survive this trip because I was attacked at a gun point, Though I wasn't hurt because I complied immediately to their demand, but my mobile phone and luggage were stolen including my wallet, diary and some vital document are lost in the robbery attack. presently I am sending this email from the city library because the hotel disconnect the internet access in my room pending when i make payment.

Meanwhile, I have also thought it expedient for me to confide this in you and I will be glad to have it confidential between us. I'm physically ok and fine but I'm urgently in need of some money to complete my major aim of being here and to settle my bills till my departure here. I will be glad if you can assist me with a loan of 2,300 GBP ($3,700 USD) or any amount you can afford and I promise to refund you with upon my arrival back home. let me know if you can be of help and I will email you the details you will need to send the money.

I await your reply immediately so I can email you the easiest way and details to send the money. Thank you so much.

Birnbrich said this appears to be a variant of a known scam. He said what likely happened is that a scammer guessed the acquaintance's email password (or was given the password through trickery) and gained access to the acquaintance's email account. From there, the scammer was able to send messages from this account to the acquaintance's contacts.

The scammer then sent this fake "cry for help." Birnbrich said this scam utilizes the common fear of being far from home without money.

He added that the scammer is counting on the fact that recipients of the email will reply to the email (incorrectly thinking they are speaking to a friend) and arrange to send money via wire transfer.

"If you receive a similar email, do not reply to the email, as it appears the scammer changes the email password and the account's rightful owner can no longer gain access. Instead, contact the acquaintance by phone and inform him or her that the account has been hacked. Do not send money, as it will not be recovered," said Birnbrich. ***(AGO)***

KagHS Culinary Program hosts food tasting event

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Customers at Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe were given a culinary treat Saturday as Kikkoman products sponsored a food sampling event hosted by the Kagman High School Culinary Arts program.

Eleven students from Culinary Arts I and II classes, under the supervision of program instructor Frank Sablan, prepared six fares for Joeten patrons to try out: Bacon & Tomato Pizza, Beef and Broccoli Stir-Fry, Lucky Sweet & Sour Pork, Party Almonds, Roasted Garlic Teriyaki Chicken, and Saucy Shrimp.

All fares were prepared using Kikkoman products that Joeten stores carry, including the Kikkoman Teriyaki Baste & Glaze with Honey & Pineapple, Kikkoman Broccoli Beef Stir-Fry seasoning mix, and Kikkoman Roasted Garlic Teriyaki Marinade & Sauce.

Joeten marketing manager and buyer Frannie T. Demapan said in an interview that her cooking demonstration and food sampling event idea was supported by Kikkoman which provided funding to promote their products.

Demapan, who previously taught at Kagman High School, decided to approach Sablan and his Culinary Arts classes to take part in the event, to which they readily agreed.

"I really like working with students and bringing them to the store," said Demapan, adding that they are looking at making food sampling events for various vendors a regular occurrence at Joeten.

Saturday's event, Demapan said, helped the public realize that Kikoman is not just limited to soy sauce.

"There are different kinds of Kikkoman products and Joeten carries a lot of it. We're asking the public to experiment more and try out the different Kikkoman products because they're actually really good," Demapan told *Saipan Tribune.*

Printed copies of the six featured recipes were also provided at the event so that Joeten shoppers can try making the dishes at home.

Cris Sablan, 54, said he went to the Joeten Susupe with high blood pressure but left the store without it because of the natural flavors of garlic in the Roasted Garlic Teriyaki Chicken.

"It's an excellent recipe, very tasty. I took a copy of the recipe and I want to try it at home," said Sablan, who lives in Dandan.

Marcie Rabauliman of Capitol Hill, who did her regular shopping at Joeten on Saturday, said she cannot cook at home or at work without using Kikkoman. Rabauliman works with Dr. Dan Lamar, acting director for Healthcare Corp. medical affairs, at the tuberculosis clinic.

Rabauliman especially liked the Beef and Broccoli Stir-Fry dish, which she described as "not salty yet very tasty."

"My children love beef and broccoli so I'm going to prepare it using the Kikkoman recipe," she said.

Marivic Ballesteros said she particularly liked the Saucy Shrimp dish. "It's really delicious. We always use Kikkoman regular and less sodium soy sauce but now I'm going to try the Kikkoman Teriyaki Baste & Glaze," said the Lower Navy Hill resident.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Joeten marketing manager and buyer Frannie T. Demapan, right, joins Kagman High School Culinary Arts students under instructor Frank Sablan, left, for a group photo after holding a successful food demonstration and sampling event at Joeten Susupe last Saturday.

Instructor Sablan said he was happy to hear a lot of good feedbacks from the customers regarding the dishes.

"They were actually walking out with bottles of Kikkoman. Everyone is interested and they like the products," he said.

Sablan commended his students for doing "really well under pressure" on their first food sampling event.

Twelfth grader Christian Manzanares of Culinary Arts I class said he enjoyed being part of the event that helped promote Kikkoman and also served as an opportunity to do actual food sampling while getting to know people.

"It's a good experience for me as I am headed to Seattle after graduation to study culinary at the Arts Institute," said Manzanares, 18.

Sophomore Malcolm Aaron of Culinary Arts II, said he was pleased to see that the customers liked the dishes they prepared. "It's my first time to do anything like this and it's a great experience."

According to Sablan, the event provided an opportunity for students to get hands-on experience in cooking, allowing them to be more comfortable cooking for real customers.

"I want to thank Kikkoman, Joeten, and Ms. Frannie Demapan for including us in this. It helps build experience for our kids and hands-on practical learning," he said.

Sablan is optimistic that more vendors will invite them to do food demonstrations to promote their products and, at the same time, provide the students with more exposure and experience.

For more information, email frank.sablan@cnmipss.org or call 237-3840.

Northern Mariana Islands
RETIREMENT FUND
"Investing For The Future Financial Security Of Our Members"
1989

OFFICE SPACE AVAILABLE

APPROXIMATELY 14,666 SQ. FT. PRIME OFFICE SPACE

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF) is soliciting proposals to lease approximately 14,666 square feet of prime office space on the second and third floors (approximately 7000 sq.ft. per floor) of the Retirement Fund Building on Capitol Hill, Saipan. Ideally located across from the Governor's Office and the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature, the building has a backup generator, 24-hour water service, and ample parking space for employees and visitors. Space is available for viewing immediately.

Minimum acceptable terms include the following:

- Per square foot per month, Triple Net (higher for less than full available footage);
- Lessee responsible for own utilities, as well as cost to separately meter;
- 24 months minimum lease term; and
- First month, last month and reasonable security deposit required (amount depends on credit history and financial strength of Lessee).

All proposals are subject to acceptance by the NMIRF Board of Trustees in its sole discretion.

/s/ RICHARD S. VILLAGOMEZ
Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council
Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular meeting on Wednesday, January 25, 2012 at 5:30pm, Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
   a. December 21, 2011

II. Public Comments
III. Communications
1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports
1. Managers
2. Director
3. Human Resource Officer
4. Finance Director
5. Center Representatives

V. Old Business
1. Staff Qualification Update
2. Self Assessment Update
3. Community Assessment Update

VI. New Business
VII. Miscellaneous Matters
VIII. Executive Session
IX. Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Naydine Aguon at (670) 664-3751; several days notice is required.

/s/ **Vinnie Sablan**
Chairperson

Public Participation Requirement
CNMI
Public School System, Early Intervention and Special Education Program

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, the Public School System Special Education & Early Intervention Program is required to provide a 60 day circulation period of its Part B & Part C Grant Applications and a 30 day comment period. Before the adoption of any new policy or procedure, including any revision to an existing policy or procedure, PSS must hold public hearings and must provide notice of the hearings at least 30 days before the hearings are conducted to enable the general public, including individuals with disabilities, parents of infants, toddlers and youth with disabilities, EIS providers, and the members of the Interagency Coordinating Council to comment on the policies and procedures.

*Public Circulation Period: January 25, 2012 thru March 30, 2012
*Public Comment Period: February 27, 2012 thru March 28, 2012

*Public Hearings:

Location	Date	Time	Site
Saipan	March 5, 2012	5:00 pm to 6:30pm	PSS Conference Room: Central Office in Susupe
Tinian	March 6, 2012	5:00 pm to 6:30pm	Tinian High School Library
Rota	March 8, 2012	5:00pm to 6:30pm	Dr. Rita Inos Junior /Senior High School Cafeteria

Copies of the Grant Applications and revised Part C policies and procedures are available from Monday to Friday, 8:00am – 4:00pm at the following locations:

Office of Special Education Programs, Susupe, 2nd floor PSS Central Bldg. Phone Number 237-3029
Children's Developmental Assistance Center (C*DAC) in Garapan. Phone Number 664-4830,
The Grant Application and revised policies and procedures and will be available on the PSS Website; www.cnmipss.org/state-level-programs/curriculum-instruction-assessment/special-education-early-intervention-program/grant-applications

Comments may be submitted by fax to (670) 664-3774, hand delivered to the Office of Special Education Programs located on the 2nd floor PSS Central Building in Susupe, mailed to PSS Box 1370 or phone in your comments to:

Special Education Program: (670) 237-3029
Children's Dev. Assistance Center (670) 664-4830

For more information, please contact Ms. Suzanne W. Lizama-Director, Special Education Program at (670) 237-3029, or Robin Palacios, Interim Coordinator, Early Intervention Program at (670) 664-4830.

Business

After protest, Congress puts off movie piracy bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—Caving to a massive campaign by Internet services and their millions of users, Congress indefinitely postponed legislation Friday to stop online piracy of movies and music costing U.S. companies billions of dollars every year. Critics said the bills would result in censorship and stifle Internet innovation.

The demise, at least for the time being, of the anti-piracy bills was a clear victory for Silicon Valley over Hollywood, which has campaigned for a tougher response to online piracy. The legislation also would cover the counterfeiting of drugs and car parts.

Congress' qualms underscored how Internet users can use their collective might to block those who want to change the system.

The battle over the future of the Internet also played out on a different front Thursday when a loose affiliation of hackers known as "Anonymous" shut down Justice Department websites for several hours and hacked the site of the Motion Picture Association of America after federal officials issued an indictment against Megaupload.com, one of the world's biggest file-sharing sites.

The site of the Hong Kong-based company was shut down, and the founder and three employees were arrested in New Zealand on U.S. accusations that they facilitated millions of illegal downloads of films, music and other content, costing copyright holders at least $500 million in lost revenue. New Zealand police raided homes and businesses linked to the founder, Kim Dotcom, on Friday and seized guns, millions of dollars and nearly $5 million in luxury cars, officials there said.

In the U.S., momentum against the Senate's Protect Intellectual Property Act and the House's Stop Online Piracy Act, known popularly as PIPA and SOPA, grew quickly on Wednesday when the online encyclopedia Wikipedia and other Web giants staged a one-day blackout and Google organized a petition drive that attracted more than 7 million participants.

Bonus season not as festive for bank CEOs

NEW YORK (AP)—JPMorgan Chase, the nation's largest bank, posted a record profit for 2011. That didn't translate into a bigger bonus for CEO Jamie Dimon. Morgan Stanley's latest quarterly results topped expectations as the bank trimmed costs and cleaned up problems dating from the financial crisis. But CEO James Gorman saw the value of his stock awards for the year fall by half.

Across their ranks, Wall Street banks are curbing bonus pay for last year's performance, which was marked by big drops in stock prices and still-hefty costs for mortgage-related problems. In the last three months of the year, fear about the European debt crisis made the stock and bond markets volatile, and clients of all the major banks shied away from mergers and acquisitions and public offerings of stock. That sharply reduced investment banking and underwriting fees. The banks also faced a surge in populist anger, as the Occupy Wall Street movement went national.

Financial stocks were some of the worst performing in 2011. While the S&P 500 Index finished the year flat, Morgan Stanley shares plunged 44 percent, JPMorgan dropped nearly 22 percent and Goldman Sachs Group Inc. tanked 46 percent.

Nation

Gingrich storms to SC victory, scrambling GOP race

COLUMBIA, S.C. (AP)—Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich stormed to an upset victory in the South Carolina primary Saturday night, dealing a sharp setback to former front-runner Mitt Romney and abruptly scrambling the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

In victory, Gingrich praised his Republican rivals and attacked President Barack Obama and "elites in New York and Washington."

Gingrich

Obama is "the most effective food stamp president in history," he said. "I would like to be the best paycheck president in American history." Those declarations and his attack on the "elite news media" reprised two of his more memorable lines from a pair of debates that helped fuel his victory.

Exit polls showed he led among voters who said their top priority was picking a candidate who could beat Obama—a group that had preferred Romney in earlier contests in Iowa and New Hampshire.

Romney, the national front-runner until now, was unbowed. He vowed to contest for every vote "in every state," an acknowledgement that the race would likely be a long one. He also unleashed a double-barreled attack on Obama and Gingrich.

Referring to Gingrich's criticism of his business experience, Romney said, "When my opponents attack success and free enterprise, they're not only attacking me, they're attacking every person who dreams of a better future. He's attacking you," he told supporters, the closest he came to mentioning the primary winner's name.

Returns from 95 percent of the state's precincts showed Gingrich with 41 percent of the vote to 27 percent for Romney. Former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum was winning 17 percent, Texas Rep. Ron Paul 13 percent.

As the first Southern primary, South Carolina has been a proving ground for Republican presidential hopefuls in recent years. Since Ronald Reagan in 1980, every Republican contender who won the primary has gone on to capture the party's nomination.

Nearly 600,000 voters turned out, according to an AP estimate. That eclipses the previous record turnout for the primary in 2000, when George W. Bush defeated John McCain

Based on the vote total, Gingrich won at least 15 of the 25 Republican National Convention delegates at stake and none of the other contenders was yet assured of any.

But political momentum was the real prize with the race to pick an opponent to Obama still in its early stages.

Already, Romney and a group that supports him were on the air in Florida with a significant television ad campaign, more than $7 million combined to date.

Gingrich readily conceded that he trails in money, and even before appearing for his victory speech he tweeted supporters thanking them and appealing for a flood of donations for the Jan 31 primary. "Help me deliver the knockout punch in Florida. Join our Moneybomb and donate now," said his tweet.

Aides to the former Massachusetts governor had once dared hope that Florida would seal his nomination—if South Carolina didn't first—but that strategy appeared to vanish along with the once-formidable lead he held in pre-primary polls.

CNMI Water Task Force
IFB12-GOV-035

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting Sealed Bids from qualified individuals or firms for the lease of a warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The procurement specifications and special terms and conditions will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan on or after **January 9, 2012**.

All questions regarding this Invitation for Bids shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 PM, **January 20, 2012** to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, at facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Sealed Bids must be marked **"Lease of Warehouse", IFB12-GOV-035**. An original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than **2:00 P.M. , local time, on February 7, 2012** at which time Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

This procurement is made in accordance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Bid procedures shall be in full compliance with Article 3, Part A, Section 3-102 of the Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs. Award of a contract is contingent upon approval from DOI/OIA.

The government reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Invitation for Bids
IFB12-GOV-037

Security Services for Water Task Force Warehouse

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Bids for Security Services for the Water Task Force Warehouse on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **January 23, 2012.**

A mandatory Pre-Bid Conference is scheduled for **10:00 a.m.** local time, **February 3, 2012**, at the CNMI Water **Task Force Conference Room, 1316 Anatahan Dr., Capitol Hill, Saipan.**

All questions regarding this IFB must be submitted in writing no later than **4:30 pm, February 2, 2012**, to Mr. Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager, facsimile number (670) 664-2279.

Bids must be sealed and marked **"IFB12-GOV-037"**. For bidders within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bid by submitting a Notice of Intent to Bid. Notices of Intent to Bid must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **3:00 p.m.** local time, **February 21, 2012**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515. For bidders located outside the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **February 21, 2012**, and must be received no later than **March 1, 2012.** Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly open and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, at 3:00 pm local time, **March 5, 2012.** However, if no Notices of Intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at 3:30 pm local time on **February 21, 2012**.

The bid procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is not available to local bidders in this procurement because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funds for this project.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any or all Bids and to waive any imperfections in any bid if to do so will be in the best interest of the CNMI. All Bids shall become the property of the CNMI government.

/s/Benigno R. Fitial
Governor

/s/Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Asia

Beijing releases pollution data; US figures higher

BEIJING (AP)—Caving to public pressure, Beijing environmental authorities started releasing more detailed air quality data Saturday that may better reflect how bad the Chinese capital's air pollution is. But one expert says measurements from the first day were low compared with data U.S. officials have been collecting for years.

The initial measurements were low on a day where you could see blue sky. After a week of smothering smog, the skies over the city were being cleared by a north wind.

The readings of PM2.5—particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in size or about 1/30th the average width of a human hair—were being posted on Beijing's environmental monitoring center's website. Such small particulates can penetrate deep into the lungs, so measuring them is considered a more accurate reflection of air quality than other methods.

It is the first time Beijing has publicly revealed PM2.5 data and follows a clamor of calls by citizens on social networking sites tired of breathing in gray and yellow air. The U.S. Embassy measures PM2.5 from a device on its rooftop and releases the results, and some residents have even tested the air around their neighborhoods and posted the results online.

AP

In this Tuesday, Jan. 10, 2012 file photo, a man rides an electric bike crossing a street shrouded by haze in Beijing, China.

Beijing is releasing hourly readings of PM2.5 that are taken from one monitoring site about 4 miles (7 kilometers) west of Tiananmen Square, the monitoring center's website said Saturday. It said the data was for research purposes and the public should only use it as a reference.

The reading at noon Saturday was 0.015 milligrams per cubic meter, which would be classed as "good" for a 24-hour exposure at that level, according to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency standards. The U.S. Embassy reading taken from its site on the eastern edge of downtown Beijing said its noon reading was "moderate." Its readings are posted on Twitter.

Steven Andrews, an environmental consultant who has studied Beijing's pollution data since 2006, said he was "already a bit suspicious" of Beijing's PM2.5 data. Within the 24-hour period to noon Saturday, Beijing reported seven hourly figures "at the very low level" of 0.003 milligrams per cubic meter.

"In all of 2010 and 2011, the U.S. Embassy reported values at or below that level only 18 times out of over 15,000 hourly values or about 0.1 percent of the time," said Andrews. "PM2.5 concentrations vary by area so a direct comparison between sites isn't possible, but the numbers being reported during some hours seem surpisingly low."

Karzai says he's met with Afghan insurgent faction

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Afghan President Hamid Karzai said Saturday that he personally held peace talks recently with the insurgent faction Hizb-i-Islami, appearing to assert his own role in a U.S.-led bid for negotiations to end the country's decade-long war.

Karzai made the announcement hours before he met with American special representative Marc Grossman to discuss progress and plans for bringing the Taliban insurgency into formal talks for the first time.

"Recently, we met with a delegation from Hizb-i-Islami ... and had negotiations," Karzai told a meeting of the Afghan parliament. "We are hopeful that these negotiations for peace continue and we will have good results," he added.

Karzai's statement was a reminder that any negotiations to end Afghanistan's war will be more complex than just talking to the Taliban's Pakistan-based leadership, headed by Mullah Mohammed Omar. The two other main insurgent factions in the country have their own leaders and agendas.

Hizb-i-Islami is a radical Islamist militia that controls territory in Afghanistan's northeast and launches attacks against U.S. forces from Pakistan. Its leader, powerful warlord Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, is a former U.S. ally now listed as a terrorist by Washington.

Based over the Pakistan border, Hekmatyar has ties to al-Qaida and has launched deadly attacks on U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Fighters loyal to Hekmatyar also have strongholds in Baghlan, Kunduz and Kunar provinces in the north and northeast Afghanistan.

The other main insurgent group is the feared Haqqani network, which maintains close ties to both al-Qaida and the Taliban and commands the loyalties of an estimated 10,000 fighters. The Haqqanis have been blamed for a series of spectacular attacks, including suicide bombings inside Kabul.

By showing he can bring at least one major faction to the negotiating table, Karzai may hope to boost his standing in a tentative peace process that has recently been dominated by Washington. The president has met before with representatives of Hekmatyar, whose political allies hold seats in the Afghan parliament and Cabinet, but Saturday's public announcement seemed intended to bolster Karzai's insistence on inclusion in the U.S.-led peace process.

"It should be mentioned that the Afghan nation is the owner of the peace process and negotiations," Karzai said. "No foreign country or organization can prevent (Afghans) from exercising this right."

The U.S. has repeatedly said that formal negotiations must be Afghan-led, but Karzai is reportedly uneasy with his government not being directly involved in recent preliminary talks with Taliban representatives.

U.S. representative Grossman began meeting with Karzai on Saturday, the U.S. Embassy said.

Grossman, however, stressed that any future negotiations would include Afghanistan's government.

"After our meeting with President Karzai, we will decide what to do next because we take his guidance and advice in an Afghan-owned and Afghan-led process," Grossman said Friday during a stop in India.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-12-006

PIPELINE PROJECT MNAGEMENT, DESIGN SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE
(Emergency Procurement)

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified and experienced firms to provide Project management to include Design & Construction Management services for CUC's 8-Inch Diesel Fuel Pipeline Replacement Project in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Contractor shall furnish labor for the Design and Project Management Services for the Commonwealth Utilities Commission (CUC) from award to completion of the 8" diesel pipeline project, tasks shall include but not be limited to weekly, monthly inspection reports, design completion, construction and quality assurance oversight, site visits and coordination with the CUC, construction contractor and regulatory agencies.

The project involves replacement of an existing 8 inch aboveground petroleum pipeline (approx. 1 mile long) with an 8 inch underground pipeline from the Saipan seaport at the Mobil Oil Bulk Plant to the CUC Power Plant 1 and 2. The underground pipe installation portion of the project includes archeological monitoring, excavation/trenching, shoring, placement of bedding, welding and testing of pipe segments, pressure relief valves, high and low point drains, valve pits, pipe jacket, bridge crossing, pipe pigging, cathodic protection, based on 49 CFR part 195 and other applicable codes.

This project is being performed under a stipulated order (SO) being overseen by the U.S. EPA and Federal Judge. The project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior (DOI), Office of the Insular Affairs.

The Scope-of-Work will be **e-mailed** upon request, to all interested Offerors, by the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.), Monday thru Friday, except government observed holidays.

The response to this RFP must be received with the title **"PIPELINE PROJECT MNAGEMENT, DESIGN SERVICES & CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE 8-INCH DIESEL FUEL PIPELINE"** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org no later than **January 27, 2012 at 10:00 AM**, (ChST) local time. Late submissions will not be considered.

All inquiries must be submitted in writing no later than 10:00 AM (CHST) local time on **January 25, 2012** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, Jr. Purchasing Officer via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org; Technical Manager for Oil via email ed.char@cucgov.org; Managing Engineer, Power generation, via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Ms. Janina Muna, Procurement & Supply Administrative Assistant via email mika.muna@cucgov.org. CUC will respond to any questions and clarifications only to prospective Offerors who have registered with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division for the solicitation.

Selection procedure shall be in full compliance with CUC Procurement Regulations. Contract will be awarded to the most responsive proposers, as adjudged by the Source Selection Committee (SSC). CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and waive any imperfection in the Request for Proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

ABE UTU MALAE
Executive Director

ASIAN BRIEFS

Thai police find 3.8 million methamphetamine pills

BANGKOK (AP)—Police have seized 3.8 million methamphetamine tablets in Thailand's largest drug bust in years. The haul was estimated as worth more than one billion baht ($31.7 million). Police Maj. Gen. Comronwit Toopgrajank said the pills and 71 kilograms (156 pounds) of crystal meth were found hidden in an empty house in Bangkok's northern outskirts. Police raided the house Saturday after tracking down a driver who abandoned his vehicle after a car chase.

14 Indonesian, Korean crew rescued in Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A cargo ship loaded with iron ore has listed off the eastern coast of the Philippines, and passing boats rescued the 14-member crew. Philippine coast guard operations officer Mark Angue says the Panamanian-registered M/V Sun Spirit began to list Saturday off Catanduanes province and sent a distress signal. The coast guard immediately deployed three ships and a helicopter for a search and rescue. Angue says the coast guard later learned that the 12 Indonesian and two Korean crewmen abandoned their China-bound ship, which came from the central Philippine province of Leyte.

Maldives vice president ashamed by judge's arrest

MALE, Maldives (AP)—The Maldives vice president said Saturday that he is "ashamed and totally devastated" that the government in which he is a member has arrested a criminal court judge in violation of his freedom from arbitrary arrest. In a clear indication of divisions within President Mohamed Nasheed's government, Vice President Mohammed Waheed Hassan blogged that he wondered if the struggles that freed the nation from a 30-year autocracy had been wasted. "The most important and most precious dividend from the democracy struggle in Maldives has been freedom from fear. It is the knowledge that no one of us will be dragged out of our beds in the middle of the night and taken to an undisclosed location," Waheed wrote.

World

Ship search finds 12th body, captain's documents

GIGLIO, Italy (AP)—Divers plumbing the capsized Costa Concordia's murky depths pulled out the body of a woman in a life vest Saturday, while scuba-diving police swam through the captain's cabin to retrieve a safe and documents belonging to the man who abandoned the cruise liner after it was gashed by a rocky reef on the Tuscan coast.

Hoping for a miracle—or at least for the recovery of bodies from the ship that has become an underwater tomb—relatives of some of the 20 missing appealed to survivors of the Jan. 13 shipwreck to offer details that could help divers reach loved ones while it is still possible to search the luxury liner. The clock is ticking because the craft is perched precariously on a rocky ledge of seabed near Giglio island.

"We are asking the 4,000 persons who were on board to give any information they can about any of the persons still missing," said Alain Litzler, a Frenchman who is the father of missing passenger Mylene Litzler. "We need precise information to help the search and rescue teams find them."

Early Sunday, instruments monitoring any movement of the Concordia indicated that vessel had shifted slightly, so search efforts were suspended for the night, Italian state radio reported.

The death toll rose to at least 12 Saturday after a waterlogged body was extracted from a passageway near a gathering point for evacuation by lifeboats in the rear of the vessel, Coast Guard Cmdr. Filippo Marini said. It was not immediately clear if the woman was a passenger or crew member. A female Peruvian bartender and several adult female passengers were among the 21 people listed as missing before the latest corpse was found.

Relatives of the bartender and of an Indian crewman, along with two children of an elderly couple from Minnesota who are among the missing, boarded a boat Saturday to view the wrecked Concordia Saturday, said a maritime official, Fabrizio Palombo.

Family members tossed flowers near the site while islanders standing on the rocky edge of the island also strew bouquets on the water in a tribute to the victims.

Another Coast Guard official, Cosimo Nicastro, said the woman's body was found during a particularly risky inspection.

AP

A woman checks if her clothes are dry as the grounded cruise ship Costa Concordia is seen in background, off the Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012.

WORLD BRIEFS

Coordinated sect attack kills 143 in north Nigeria

KANO, Nigeria (AP)—A coordinated attack by a radical Islamist sect in north Nigeria's largest city killed at least 143 people, a hospital official said Saturday, representing the extremist group's deadliest assault since beginning its campaign of terror in Africa's most populous nation. Soldiers and police officers swarmed Kano's streets as Nigeria's president again promised the sect known as Boko Haram would "face the full wrath of the law." But the uniformed bodies of security agents that filled a Kano hospital mortuary again showed the sect can strike at will against the country's weak central government.

Libyans storm transitional government headquarters

BENGHAZI, Libya (AP)—Hundreds of angry Libyans on Saturday stormed the transitional government's headquarters in the eastern city of Benghazi, carting off computers, chairs, and desks while the country's interim leader was still holed up in the building. Libyans have grown increasingly frustrated with the pace and direction of reforms in the country more than three months after the end of the civil war that ousted longtime dictator Moammar Gadhafi. Those concerns spurred residents in Benghazi, where the uprising against longtime leader Moammar Gadhafi broke out in February, to begin protests nearly two weeks ago to demand transparency and justice from the country's new leaders.

Ambush of police truck in Syria kills 14

BEIRUT (AP)—A string of explosions struck a police truck transporting prisoners in a tense area of northwestern Syria on Saturday, killing at least 14 people, state media and an opposition group said. Government troops also battled defectors in the north in fighting that left 10 people dead. The 10-month uprising against Syrian President Bashar Assad began with largely peaceful anti-government protests, but has turned increasingly militarized and chaotic in recent months as more frustrated regime opponents and army defectors arm themselves and fight back against government forces.

Police: Gunmen kidnap American in north Somalia

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Gunmen kidnapped an American man in the northern Somali town of Galkayo on Saturday, officials said, the same day an airstrike killed a senior insurgent leader with ties to al-Qaida in another part of the country. The gunmen surrounded the man's car shortly after the man left the airport, said policeman Abdi Hassan Nur, who witnessed the incident. He said they then forced the American into another vehicle. Galkayo is on the border between the semi-autonomous northern region of Puntland and a region known as Galmudug. It is ruled by forces friendly to the U.N.-backed Somali government.

Egypt's Islamists win 75 percent of parliament

CAIRO (AP)—Final results on Saturday showed that Islamist parties won nearly three-quarters of the seats in parliament in Egypt's first elections since the ouster of authoritarian president Hosni Mubarak, according to election officials and political groups.

The Islamist domination of Egypt's parliament has worried liberals and even some conservatives about the religious tone of the new legislature, which will be tasked with forming a committee to write a new constitution. It remains unclear whether the constitution will be written while the generals who took power after Mubarak's fall are still in charge, or rather after presidential elections this summer.

In the vote for the lower house of parliament, a coalition led by the fundamentalist Muslim Brotherhood won 47 percent, or 235 seats in the 498-seat parliament. The ultraconservative Al-Nour Party was second with 25 percent, or 125 seats.

The Salafi Al-Nour, which was initially the biggest surprise of the vote, wants to impose strict Islamic law in Egypt, while the more moderate Brotherhood, the country's best-known and organized party, has said publicly that it does not seek to force its views about an appropriate Islamic lifestyle on Egyptians.

The two parties are unlikely to join forces because of ideological differences, but both have a long history of charity work in Egypt's vast poverty-stricken neighborhoods and villages, giving them a degree of legitimacy and popularity across the country in areas where newer liberal parties have yet to get a foothold.

Muslim Brotherhood lawmaker Mohammed el-Beltagi said the new parliament represents "the wish of the Egyptian people."

Egypt's elections commission acknowledged that there were voting irregularities, but the vote has been hailed as the country's freest and fairest in living memory.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **LUCINDA ROSA L. ROSARIO,** Defendant.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0422** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on June 4, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1302, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 931 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 011 G 24 dated December 9, 1993, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 96-2567,, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
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ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **CYPRIANO KAIPAT BERKI and MELVA JUDYANN MUNA BERKI,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0485** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 28, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 011 G 1236, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 748 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Division of Land and Surveys Official Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 23, the original of which was recorded October 10, 1996, as Document No. 96-2556 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 13th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **CARLOS ALDAN AGUON and LOLITA BALUYU AGUON,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 07-0488** **SECOND AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on September 15, 2008, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 55, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 03 dated May 31, 1989, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 90-1900,, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 10, 2012, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 12th day of January, 2012:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
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TEL: (670) 234-6547
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ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- HILBERT HENRY C. SAN NICOLAS, Defendant.	) CIVIL ACTION) No. 11-0322

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to Complaint, a copy which is served upon you hereby, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

DATED, this 5th day of January, 2012, by order of the Court:

/s/Clerk of Court

YINAN XU TANG
P.O. Box PMB 785 Box 10003
Saipan, MP 96950

PRO SE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Petition for the Change of Name of: YINAN XU TANG Petitioner.	**FCD CN CIVIL ACTION NO. 12-0002** **NOTICE OF HEARING**

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on February 9, 2012, at 9:30am in Courtroom 217A, before Associate Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 9th day of January, 2012.

BERNADITA SABLAN
Clerk of Court

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

Health & Fitness

AP

This Jan. 13, 2012 photo shows heart patient Tammy Collins who credits her recovery and confidence with her cardio rehabiltaion workouts at The Ohio State University CarePoint East facility in Columbus, Ohio.

Sex poses surprisingly low risk to heart patients

CHICAGO (AP)—Good news: Sex is safe for most heart patients. If you're healthy enough to walk up two flights of stairs without chest pain or gasping for breath, you can have a love life.

That advice from a leading doctors' group on Thursday addresses one of the most pressing, least discussed issues facing survivors of heart attacks and other heart patients.

In its first science-based recommendations on the subject, the American Heart Association says having sex only slightly raises the chance for a heart attack. And that's true for people with and without heart disease.

Surprisingly, despite the higher risk for a heart patient to have a second attack, there's no evidence that they have more sex-related heart attacks than people without cardiac disease.

Many heart patients don't think twice about climbing stairs, yet many worry that sexual activity will cause another heart attack, or even sudden death, said Dr. Glenn Levine, lead author of a report detailing the recommendations and a professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston.

The report says sex is something doctors should bring up with all heart patients. Yet few do because they're uncomfortable talking about it or they lack information, Levine said. The new guidance is designed to fill that gap.

Heart patients should get a doctor's OK before engaging in sexual activity. Many may be advised first to do cardiac rehab—exercise while being monitored for heart symptoms, to improve heart strength and increase physical fitness. But the heart association says most eventually will be cleared to resume sexual activity.

The doctors' group offers advice for heart patients based on scientific research involving sometimes provocative sex-related topics:

■ Who's most at risk for sudden death related to sex? Married men having affairs, often with younger women in unfamiliar settings. Those circumstances can add to stress that may increase the risks, evidence from a handful of studies suggests.

■ Sex may be OK as soon as one week after a relatively mild heart attack, if patients can walk up a few flights of stairs without discomfort.

■ Viagra and other drugs for erectile dysfunction are generally safe for men with stable heart disease.

"The risk of having a heart attack during sexual activity is two to three times higher than when not having sexual activity. However, this increased risk of heart attack during sexual activity represents only a very small part of a person's overall risk of having a heart attack, and sexual activity is the cause of less than 1 percent of all heart attacks," Levine said.

Among heart attack survivors, average risks for another heart attack or sudden death are about 10 in 1 million per hour of sexual activity; having sex increases that to about 20 to 30 in 1 million per hour, the new report says. People without heart disease face lower overall risks for a heart attack, but similar risks for a sex-related attack.

The updated advice was released online Thursday in the heart association journal, Circulation.

Dr. Keith Churchwell, chief medical officer of Vanderbilt University's Heart and Vascular Institute, said the guidance is important for patients, and that questions about sex are the most common ones he hears from heart patients.

Ohio State University heart specialist Martha Gulati praised the recommendations for emphasizing that sexual counseling is important not just for patients but also their partners, who she says are often just as nervous about resuming sexual activity.

Day-care operator Tammy Collins of Reynoldsburg, Ohio, one of Gulati's patients, says the advice is reassuring.

She had a heart attack last year on Sept. 11, during a trip to Cincinnati to celebrate her wedding anniversary.

Collins' mother died of a heart attack at the same age, on her 51st birthday. With high blood pressure and high cholesterol, Collins knew she was at risk. She developed symptoms a few hours after having sex. She dismissed it at first, until she felt a sharp pain in her upper back and had trouble breathing. She was rushed to the hospital and doctors used stents to open blocked arteries.

Collins said she wasn't embarrassed to ask Gulati about sex, who told her it was unlikely that her night of romance had caused the heart attack. After several weeks of cardiac rehab, she was cleared to resume sexual activity—advice that surprised her friends. But Collins said the exercise sessions have made her feel fitter than ever.

"A heart attack does not have to be the end of living," Collins said.

Chicago cardiologist Dan Fintel, a professor of medicine at Northwestern University, said he routinely gives heart patients a sex talk on their last day in the hospital, knowing that it's likely on their minds.

"Resuming sexual activity is safe and emotionally part of the healing process, with a few caveats," he tells patients.

Those caveats elicit nervous chuckles when he explains that includes no philandering, given evidence about that causing extra stress.

Personal Trainer

Which muscles go first?

In a full-body workout, it's best to start with the larger muscle groups and move to exercising smaller muscles as fatigue begins.

A recommended order for exercising the major muscle groups:

Life & Style

Legendary blues singer Etta James dies in Calif.

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Etta James' performance of the enduring classic "At Last" was the embodiment of refined soul: Angelic-sounding strings harkened the arrival of her passionate yet measured vocals as she sang tenderly about a love finally realized after a long and patient wait.

In real life, little about James was as genteel as that song. The platinum blonde's first hit was a saucy R&B number about sex, and she was known as a hell-raiser who had tempestuous relationships with her family, her men and the music industry. Then she spent years battling a drug addiction that she admitted sapped away at her great talents.

The 73-year-old died on Friday at Riverside Community Hospital from complications of leukemia, with her husband and sons at her side, her manager, Lupe De Leon said.

"It's a tremendous loss for her fans around the world," he said. "She'll be missed. A great American singer. Her music defied category."

James' spirit could not be contained—perhaps that's what made her so magnetic in music; it is surely what made her so dynamic as one of R&B, blues and rock `n' roll's underrated legends.

"The bad girls ... had the look that I liked," she wrote in her 1995 autobiography, "Rage to Survive." ``I wanted to be rare, I wanted to be noticed, I wanted to be exotic as a Cotton Club chorus girl, and I wanted to be obvious as the most flamboyant hooker on the street. I just wanted to be."

"Etta James was a pioneer. Her ever-changing sound has influenced rock and roll, rhythm and blues, pop, soul and jazz artists, marking her place as one of the most important female artists of our time," said Rock and Roll Hall of Fame President and CEO Terry Stewart. "From Janis Joplin to Joss Stone, an incredible number of performers owe their debts to her. There is no mistaking the voice of Etta James, and it will live forever."

Despite the reputation she cultivated, she would always be remembered best for "At Last." The jazz-inflected rendition wasn't the original, but it would become the most famous and the song that would define her as a legendary singer. Over the decades, brides used it as their song down the aisle and car companies to hawk their wares, and it filtered from one generation to the next through its inclusion in movies like "American Pie." Perhaps most famously, President Obama and the first lady danced to a version at his inauguration ball. The tender, sweet song belied the turmoil in her personal life. James—born Jamesetta Hawkins—was born in Los Angeles to a mother whom she described as a scam artist, a substance abuser and a fleeting presence during her youth. She never knew her father, although she was told and had believed, that he was the famous billiards player Minnesota Fats. He neither confirmed nor denied it: when they met, he simply told her: "I don't remember everything. I wish I did, but I don't."

She was raised by Lula and Jesse Rogers, who owned the rooming house where her mother once lived in. The pair brought up James in the Christian faith, and as a young girl, her voice stood out in the church choir. James landed the solos in the choir and became so well known, she said that Hollywood stars would come to see her perform.

But she wouldn't stay a gospel singer for long. Rhythm and blues lured her away from the church, and she found herself drawn to the grittiness of the music.

"My mother always wanted me to be a jazz singer, but I always wanted to be raunchy," she recalled in her book.

She was doing just that when bandleader Johnny Otis found her singing on San Francisco street corners with some girlfriends in the early 1950s. Otis, a legend in his own right, died on Tuesday.

"At the time, Hank Ballard and the Midnighters had a hit with `Work With Me, Annie,' and we decided to do an answer. We didn't think we would get in show business, we were just running around making up answers to songs," James told The Associated Press in 1987.

AP

This Nov. 24, 2008 file photo Etta James arrives at the premiere of "Cadillac Records" in Los Angeles.

And so they replied with the song, "Roll With Me, Henry."

When Otis heard it, he told James to get her mother's permission to accompany him to Los Angeles to make a recording. Instead, the 15-year-old singer forged her mother's name on a note claiming she was 18.

"At that time, you weren't allowed to say `roll' because it was considered vulgar. So when Georgia Gibbs did her version, she renamed it `Dance With Me, Henry' and it went to No. 1 on the pop charts," the singer recalled. The Gibbs song was one of several in the early rock era when white singers got hits by covering songs by black artists, often with sanitized lyrics.

After her 1955 debut, James toured with Otis' revue, sometimes earning only $10 a night. In 1959, she signed with Chicago's legendary Chess label, began cranking out the hits and going on tours with performers such as Bobby Vinton, Little Richard, Fats Domino, Gene Vincent, Jerry Lee Lewis and the Everly Brothers. "We would travel on four buses to all the big auditoriums. And we had a lot of fun," she recalled in 1987.

James recorded a string of hits in the late 1950s and `60s including "Trust In Me," ``Something's Got a Hold On Me," ``Sunday Kind of Love," ``All I Could Do Was Cry," and of course, "At Last."

"(Chess Records founder) Leonard Chess was the most aware of anyone. He went up and down the halls of Chess announcing, 'Etta's crossed over! Etta's crossed over!' I still didn't know exactly what that meant, except that maybe more white people were listening to me. The Chess brothers kept saying how I was their first soul singer, that I was taking their label out of the old Delta blues, out of rock and into the modern era. Soul was the new direction," she wrote in her autobiography. "But in my mind, I was singing old style, not new."

In 1967, she cut one of the most highly regarded soul albums of all time, "Tell Mama," an earthy fusion of rock and gospel music featuring blistering horn arrangements, funky rhythms and a churchy chorus. A song from the album, "Security," was a top 40 single in 1968.

Her professional success, however, was balanced against personal demons, namely a drug addiction.

"I was trying to be cool," she told the AP in 1995, explaining what had led her to try heroin.

"I hung out in Harlem and saw Miles Davis and all the jazz cats," she continued. "At one time, my heavy role models were all druggies. Billie Holiday sang so groovy. Is that because she's on drugs? It was in my mind as a young person. I probably thought I was a young Billie Holiday, doing whatever came with that."

She was addicted to the drug for years, beginning in 1960, and it led to a harrowing existence that included time behind bars. It sapped her singing abilities and her money, eventually, almost destroying her career.

It would take her at least two decades to beat her drug problem. Her husband, Artis Mills, even went to prison for years, taking full responsibility for drugs during an arrest even though James was culpable.

"My management was suffering. My career was in the toilet. People tried to help, but I was hell-bent on getting high," she wrote of her drug habit in 1980.

She finally quit the habit and managed herself for a while, calling up small clubs and asking them, "Have you ever heard of Etta James?" in order to get gigs. Eventually, she got regular bookings—even drawing Elizabeth Taylor as an audience member. In 1984, she was tapped to sing the national anthem at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles, and her career got the resurgent boost it needed, though she fought addiction again when she got hooked on painkillers in the late 1980s.

Drug addiction wasn't her only problem. She struggled with her weight, and often performed from a wheelchair as she got older and heavier. In the early 2000s, she had weight-loss surgery and shed some 200 pounds.

James performed well into her senior years, and it was "At Last" that kept bringing her the biggest ovations. The song was a perennial that never aged, and on Jan. 20, 2009, as crowds celebrated that—at last—an African-American had become president of the United States, the song played as the first couple danced.

But it was superstar Beyonce who serenaded the Obamas, not the legendary singer. Beyonce had portrayed James in "Cadillac Records," a big-screen retelling of Chess Records' heyday, and had started to claim "At Last" as her own.

An audio clip surfaced of James at a concert shortly after the inauguration, saying she couldn't stand the younger singer and that Beyonce had "no business singing my song." But she told the New York Daily News later that she was joking, even though she had been hurt that she did not get the chance to participate in the inauguration.

Upon hearing of her death, Beyonce released a statement on her website that read: "This is a huge loss. Etta James was one of the greatest vocalists of our time. I am so fortunate to have met such a queen. Her musical contributions will last a lifetime. Playing Etta James taught me so much about myself, and singing her music inspired me to be a stronger artist. When she effortlessly opened her mouth, you could hear her pain and triumph. Her deeply emotional way of delivering a song told her story with no filter. She was fearless, and had guts. She will be missed."

James did get her accolades over the years. She was inducted into the Rock Hall in 1993, captured a Grammy in 2003 for best contemporary blues album for "Let's Roll," one in 2004 for best traditional blues album for "Blues to the Bone" and one for best jazz vocal performance for 1994's "Mystery Lady: Songs of Billie Holiday." She was also awarded a special Grammy in 2003 for lifetime achievement and got a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

Her health went into decline, however, and by 2011, she was being cared for at home by a personal doctor.

She suffered from dementia, kidney problems and leukemia. Her husband and her two sons fought over control of her $1 million estate, though a deal was later struck keeping Mills as the conservator and capping the singer's expenses at $350,000. In December 2011, her physician announced that her leukemia was terminal, and asked for prayers for the singer.

In October 2011, it was announced that James was retiring from recording, and a final studio recording, "The Dreamer," was released, featuring the singer taking on classic songs, from Bobby "Blue" Bland's "Dreamer" to Guns N' Roses "Welcome To the Jungle"—still rocking, and a fitting end to her storied career.

Jackson: Film saved life of West Memphis 3 suspect

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Peter Jackson believes Damien Echols would be dead now if not for a 1996 documentary that cast doubt on the man's guilt in three child murders.

And Amy Berg, Jackson's colleague on the Sundance Film Festival premiere "West of Memphis," believes former Death Row inmate Echols and two other men might still be in prison if not for the independent investigation launched by "The Lord of the Rings" filmmaker and his wife, Fran Walsh.

There's no better testament at Sundance to the power of art and artists than "West of Memphis," which premiered Friday night at Robert Redford's independent-film showcase. Sundance films often come from mavericks who challenge the establishment. "West of Memphis" is a tale of artists not only challenging the system, but also beating it.

Jackson, Walsh and Berg said "West of Memphis" amounts to the fair trial Echols, Jason Baldwin and Jessie Misskelley—known as the West Memphis Three—never got as Arkansas teenagers when they were convicted in 1994.

"We went into this case believing that they didn't do it, and the facts and the evidence we came out with at the end completely supported that," Jackson said in an interview. "So is the documentary sort of providing the prosecution's point of view? No, it's not. We're not interested in that. They had their go back in 1994. ... The documentary, it's the case against the state, really."

AP

Damien Echols and his wife Lorri Davis, producers of the documentary film "West of Memphis," are interviewed at the premiere of the film at the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah, Friday, Jan. 20, 2012.

The case was a shocker in the rural Arkansas community where 8-year-old Cub Scouts Michael Moore, Steve Branch and Christopher Byers were slain in 1993. Found naked and hogtied, two of the boys drowned in a drainage ditch, while the third bled to death, his genitals mutilated, evidence prosecutors used to claim the children were killed in a satanic ritual.

The defendants were convicted based in part on a confession Misskelley later recanted. Misskelley and Baldwin were sentenced to life in prison, while Echols was condemned to death and once came within weeks of execution.

The case became a cause after Joe Berlinger and Bruce Sinofsky's documentary "Paradise Lost: The Child Murders at Robin Hood Hills," which premiered at Sundance in 1996 and questioned whether justice or misguided public opinion was served in the trial. Over the years, celebrities such as Johnny Depp, Patti Smith, Eddie Vedder of Pearl Jam and Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks joined the effort to free the men.

Jackson and Walsh watched "Paradise Lost" in 2005 and were outraged over the case. From their home base in New Zealand, they got in touch with Lorri Davis, who had met and married Echols while he was on Death Row and was leading the fight to free the men.

"Justice should be beyond popular opinion, and in this case, it wasn't," Walsh said. "The popular opinion was these guys were guilty, therefore, they're going down. It really was a done deal."

Over the next six years, Jackson and Walsh financed their own investigation, hiring forensics experts, gathering DNA evidence and tracking down witnesses to show that the prosecution had convicted innocent men.

"The way Peter and Fran just attacked the case, it made us feel like we had hope for the very first time," Echols, 37, said in an interview alongside Davis.

The hope was well-founded. Helped by evidence Jackson and Walsh's investigation collected, the case seemed headed toward a retrial.

Then last August, both sides agreed to a rare legal maneuver in which Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley entered guilty pleas that allowed them to maintain their innocence and gain their freedom for prison time already served.

Some people in Arkansas, including the family of one of the murdered boys, still believe the three men are guilty. Yet as the years passed, even the families of the other two dead boys became convinced that prosecutors went after the wrong suspects. The mother of one boy and stepfather of another came to Sundance, sharing hugs at the premiere with Echols, who said he's "happy to call them friends now."

Three years into their investigation, Jackson and Walsh contacted director Berg, whose 2006 priest-molestation documentary "Deliver Us from Evil" earned an Academy Award nomination. Berg signed on to direct "West of Memphis," which traces the 18-year history of the case and features interviews with Jackson and many witnesses and experts he and Walsh worked with.

"I would submit this film to court, so that's how strongly I feel about it," said Davis, a producer on the film along with Echols, Jackson and Walsh.

The film also builds a case that a stepfather of one of the murdered boys should be investigated.

Jackson said that without "Paradise Lost," "Damien would be dead by now, so I do believe that film saved his life. And I'm hoping that our movie goes some way toward exoneration and catching the person that killed those three kids."

Walsh and Jackson stop short of saying their efforts led to the release of Echols, Baldwin and Misskelley. Yet Berg thinks the evidence brought to light by Jackson and Walsh was crucial.

"Without the discovery of the DNA, there's no way that these guys would be walking free, and that came so much from Peter and Fran and their investigation," Berg said.

Since his release, Echols has lived a nomadic life with Davis. He went to New Zealand to visit the set of Jackson and Walsh's upcoming "Lord of the Rings" prequel "The Hobbit" and has been staying with other friends while trying to decide on his future.

Sitting with his arm entwined around Davis', Echols said the hardships he endured were worth it because of the life he now has ahead of him.

"If I had to go through everything I did in the last 18 years to be with Lorri and to be in this situation, no, I wouldn't change it," Echols said. "I would go through it again if it meant being with Lorri."

Viral video spoofs the, er, stuff New Yorkers say

NEW YORK (AP)—Hip young New Yorkers hate waiting for the subway. They wouldn't be caught dead near tourist sites and couldn't care less if a celebrity walked by. They're snobby about what they read, even snobbier about what they eat, stick to their own borough, and call the most minuscule bedrooms "huge."

And there's something else: Some don't take kindly to being reduced to a cultural stereotype.

That's what Eliot and Ilana Glazer, brother-sister bloggers, comics and native New Yorkers, have discovered since their video, "Stuff New Yorkers Say" (no, the word isn't really "Stuff") has gone viral in the last couple days. Turns out, one of the things New Yorkers like to say is: "We don't say THAT!"

But there's been lots of positive feedback, too, and all the attention has stunned the Glazers, who posted the video on Wednesday night, hoping for some buzz but not expecting well over a million YouTube views (about 1.3 million as of late Friday).

"It's really bonkers," Eliot Glazer, 28, said in a telephone interview.

The video, inspired by a current Internet meme on what all sorts of groups of people say, is simple enough. In it, the Glazers and friends converse the way young New Yorkers would (or wouldn't, depending on whom you ask.) There are a few distinct themes.

Impatience: "Where is the train? Where is the TRAIN?" (There have been comments posted that while people in New York think this, they don't actually stand on the platform saying it.)

Exclusivity: "Nobody knows about this place."

Culinary exclusivity: "All I had today was a bagel." Or "Ah, Momofuku!" a reference to the group of restaurants headed by hip young chef David Chang.

Culinary snobbery: "Ah, Magnolia!" a reference to the cupcakes made famous by "Sex and the City"—followed by a sour face, because the cupcakes aren't very hip.

Celebrity fatigue: "Sarah Jessica Parker! Oh, who cares."

Disdain for tourists: "Who goes to the Statue of Liberty?" "Who goes to the Empire State Building?" "Move! Move!" (walking down the street behind slowpokes.) "I hate tourists!"

That last theme, Glazer explains, is not to be taken literally. "New Yorkers are actually very kind to tourists," he says.

Another thing people are taking too literally, according to Glazer: The derisive comments about boroughs other than Manhattan, as in "I don't go to Queens," and "I don't do Brooklyn."

In fact, Glazer was born in Queens, grew up on Long Island, and now lives in Brooklyn, as does his sister—a writer and comic whose Web series, "Broad City," is in development for the FX network.

Especially funny, Glazer says, is unwarranted speculation online that the Glazers aren't even from New York. But he says he doesn't read comments on YouTube: "It's just a pool of negativity."

"This is satire," he says. "We intended it to be a satire of what it means to be young and semi-spoiled in New York."

The video was shot and edited in about two weeks. "I was worried we were past the expiration date of the meme," Glazer says. He and his sister posted it to their Facebook accounts, and "within two hours it was insane—the comments, the sharing," he says. "It was mind-blowing how quickly it took off."

What's clear from the video is that its creators love the city, despite its hardships.

Love-hate relationship with New York:

"I love it here.

"I hate it here.

"I love it here."

AP

This image courtesy of Mindy Tucker shows comedians Eliot, left, and Ilana Glazer as they pose for a photograph in New York.

Country music star Brice escapes bus fire in Ariz.

MESA, Ariz. (AP)—A tour bus carrying country music star Lee Brice caught on fire outside a restaurant in the Phoenix suburb of Mesa, forcing the musician and his crew to flee.

KNXV-TV reports that the group had been on the road for nine hours when the bus caught on fire Saturday. The "Love Like Crazy" singer had a concert in Mesa.

Mesa firefighter Shaun Denman says crews worked quickly to keep the fire from spreading to a trailer behind the bus. He says the flames were "about as high as the roof of the building."

Brice says he and a few other people were asleep at the time. He says they left the bus "and within of minutes it was in flames."

He says he's thankful no one was hurt.

AP

A sign welcomes visitors to the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012.

Sundance Film Fest opens with 4 films, new snow

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—A fresh dusting of snow over Park City heralded the beginning of the Sundance Film Festival on Thursday.

Sundance Institute founder Robert Redford opened the festival by characterizing the slate of 117 feature films as products of "dark and grim" times and the "suffering from a government that's in paralysis."

"Even though the work reflects hard times, there's not paralysis here," the 75-year-old filmmaker said at an afternoon news conference. "They're breathing life into fresh, new stories."

The selection of films are "as diverse as they can be" and no overriding theme has emerged, said festival director John Cooper.

"Independent film is the theme," he said.

For 11 days every January, Sundance becomes the focal point of the independent film world as established directors and stars mix with up-and-coming talent, while theatrical distributors prowl the festival looking for the next indie hit, and film lovers just have a good time being the first audiences to see new movies.

"You can't make a film with a festival in mind, and it's not something I would have expected or taken for granted. But it's always kind of the dream in the back of your mind," said Lauren Greenfield, who premiered her debut documentary "Thin" at Sundance in 2006 and returns this time with one of the opening-night films, "The Queen of Versailles," chronicling the housing-bust story of a couple that tried to build a palatial 90,000-square-foot mansion.

"I think it's this really magical environment, a place that's such a nurturing, supportive influence for independent films. Even when you're out there making your film, I think that you think about Sundance, and it just kind of gives you motivation."

Also opening Thursday is "Hello I Must Be Going," actor-turned-director Todd Louiso's U.S. dramatic entry that centers on a love story between a 19-year-old man and a 35-year-old divorcee, and stars Melanie Lynskey; the world-cinema drama "Wish You Were Here," a dark story of a vacation gone wrong from Australian filmmaker Kieran Darcy-Smith that stars Joel Edgerton and Teresa Palmer; and Swedish director Malik Bendjelloul's world-cinema documentary "Searching for Sugar Man," a portrait of promising 1970s singer-songwriter Rodriguez and his fade into obscurity.

Sundance also is a launch place for films that already have distributors, who show off their films hoping to build buzz among audiences and the legions of cinema journalists and bloggers who attend the festival.

"All the film press in North America is at Sundance to discover films," said Michael Barker, co-president of Sony Pictures Classics, which is showing director Nadine Labaki's Lebanese drama "Where Do We Go Now?" and Gareth Huw Evans' Indonesian action tale "The Raid" at the festival. "Sundance is like the best place to set up a film for release. You have instant press junkets at Sundance."

Among the more established filmmakers showcasing their work at the festival are Spike Lee with his urban drama "Red Hook Summer," in which he reprises the character he played in "Do the Right Thing"; Stephen Frears with his sports-wagering caper "Lay the Favorite," starring Bruce Willis, Catherine Zeta-Jones and Rebecca Hall; documentary veteran Joe Berlinger with his Paul Simon portrait "Under African Skies"; and Julie Delpy with her relationship comedy "2 Days in New York," in which she stars with Chris Rock.

The Sundance Film Festival has grown tremendously over its 28 years, but Redford said the institute's mission remains the same: to support and encourage independent filmmakers and provide a platform for their work to be seen.

"There are those people who say, `Why give money to art? It means nothing,'" Redford said. "I think it means a lot. And we're here to try and prove how much it does mean. So we can only do what we can do, but we're going to keep doing it.

The Sundance Film Festival continues through Jan. 29.

Mary J. Blige to pen song for Sundance documentary

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Mary J. Blige is lending her support—and her voice—to a documentary showing at the Sundance Film Festival about sexual assault in the U.S. military.

Blige attended the Friday world premiere of "The Invisible War." Producer Amy Ziering says the multiple Grammy winner would write an original song for the film after the Sundance festival.

Blige's song, "Need Someone," plays over the closing credits of the film.

Written and directed by Kirby Dick, "The Invisible War" examines the trauma suffered by female and male victims of rape at the hands of their military colleagues and the difficulty they have in prosecuting their attackers.

A sign welcomes visitors to the 2012 Sundance Film Festival in Park City, Utah on Thursday, Jan. 19, 2012. AP

Sen. Barbara Boxer of California, U.S. Rep. Jackie Speier, Lt. Gov. Gavin Newsom and U.S. Rep. Mike Turner of Ohio also attended the premiere.

Richard Gere attends his first Sundance Festival

PARK CITY, Utah (AP)—Richard Gere once saw Utah from horseback while moving cattle, but his trip to the Sundance Film Festival to premiere "Arbitrage" is his first actual visit to the state.

The 62-year-old actor says "it sounds ridiculous," but he was moving cattle through Nevada with some friends and "we rode up to a ridgeline and they pointed up, `That's Utah there.'"Gere says it was a seven-day cattle-moving trip on horseback.

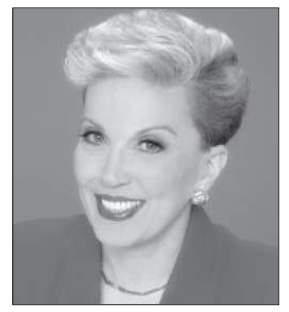
He was in Park City Saturday to promote "Arbitrage," a thriller about the lure of money and power and how it affects one's personal values.

Directed by Nicholas Jarecki, the film also stars Susan Sarandon, Nate Roth and Laetitia Casta.

The Sundance Film Festival continues through Jan. 29.

Recognizing signs of stroke can help save valuable time

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm writing this because I hope you will tell your readers to learn the signs of a stroke. I wish I had known.

I was visiting my grandma seven years ago. During dinner she had a stroke. I knew something was wrong, but wasn't sure what it was. My sister and I asked her if she wanted to go to the hospital, but she said no. We respected her wishes and didn't insist. We finally took her two days later.

Abby, my grandmother never spoke again. She spent her last seven years aware of what she wanted to say, but unable to say it. The guilt I carry is hard to live with.

Please tell your readers to make sure they know the signs of a stroke and to remember that while most people don't want to go to the hospital, the first three hours after a stroke are CRITICAL. If you suspect that your loved one is having a stroke, get that person to a hospital FAST, even if they don't want to go! You can't take back the damage a stroke causes.

My grandmother is gone now and I miss her terribly. She was a loving grandparent, and I hope she'll forgive me.

MISSING HER IN UTAH

DEAR MISSING HER: What happened to your grandmother was tragic, but you were no more at fault than the millions of others who are also unaware of the signs of stroke. In your grandmother's memory, I'll describe them.

The most common stroke symptoms are: sudden numbness or weakness of the face, arm or leg—especially on one side of the body. Sudden confusion, trouble speaking or understanding. Sudden trouble seeing in one or both eyes. Sudden trouble walking, dizziness, loss of balance or coordination. Sudden severe headache with no known cause.

Other important but common symptoms include: sudden nausea, fever and vomiting—distinguished from a viral illness by the speed of onset (minutes or hours versus several days). And brief loss of consciousness such as fainting or convulsions.

If you see or have any of these symptoms, call 911! Every minute counts, and treatment can be more effective if it's given quickly.

DEAR ABBY: My 20-year-old goddaughter is pregnant. She is beautiful, smart and talented. Her boyfriend is wonderful to her and they are very happy together. My problem is people who frown on her happiness. I am regularly asked if I'm disappointed in her. My response is usually: "It's unexpected, but we will make the best of it. She and her boyfriend both work and have a great support network and a huge family."

I think it's rude of people to assume that this is bad news. How do I respond to those who are so oblivious?

OFFENDED AUNT IN SCRANTON, PA.

DEAR OFFENDED: The way you are answering them is appropriate, positive and polite. You need no help from me.

TO MY ASIAN READERS: This is the Year of the Dragon, a symbol of power and good fortune. Those born in the Year of the Dragon are confident, brave and fearless. A symbol of strength in Asian culture, the dragon once symbolized the emperor of China. I wish a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year to all of you.

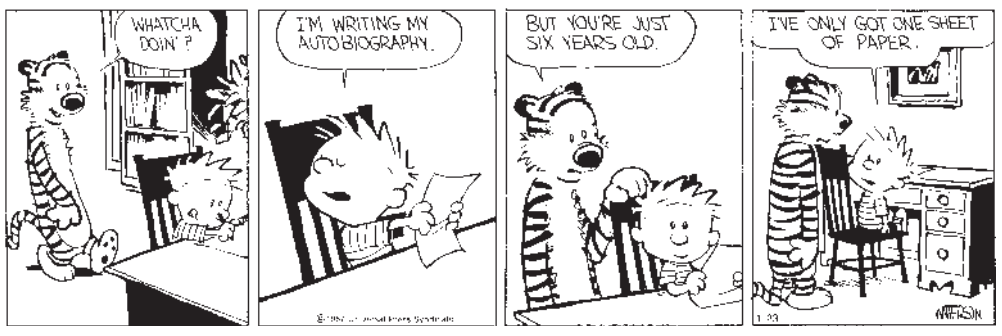
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more attractive person, order, "How to Be Popular." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



Garfield®

By Jim Davis

UM... 'SUP?
UH...NICE SHOES!
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LEAVE NOTHING TO CHANCE
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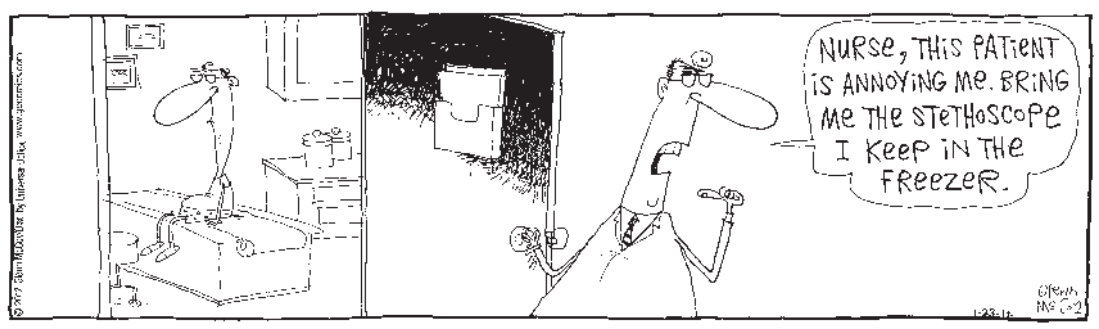
By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


NURSE, THIS PATIENT IS ANNOYING ME. BRING ME THE STETHOSCOPE I KEEP IN THE FREEZER.
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CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Fire residue
4 Temptresses
9 Swabbie's tool
12 Eisenhower nickname
13 Approximately
14 Flightless bird
15 Causing unhappiness
17 Lair
18 Architect Maya —
19 Broken-arm aid
21 With "out," depressed
24 Grand tale
25 Historic time
26 Pooch
28 Obliterate
31 Body powder
33 Pinch
35 Sleeping
36 Apportion
38 Beak
40 Floral neckwear
41 Poet Pound
43 Victoria's prince
45 Game participant
47 Automobile
48 High-arc throw
49 Worth noting
54 Right angle
55 Reserved
56 Zodiac cat
57 Beerlike brew
58 Hierarchy levels
59 Two fives

DOWN
1 Pick a target
2 Tackle the slopes
3 Cock and bull?
4 Miscellaneous
5 Desert
6 Unruly group
7 Throb
8 Treeless tract
9 Having a remedy
10 Portent
11 Fourth down option
16 Shade provider
20 Old Italian money
21 Alpha follower
22 Caspian feeder
23 Up for modification
27 Card table call
29 Prophet
30 Redact
32 Snug and warm
34 NBC bird
37 Quake
39 Trumpet noises
42 Sports venue
44 Lingerie item
45 Entreaty
46 Lounge around
50 60 sec.
51 Sandwich, for short
52 Shelter
53 A billion years

Solution time: 24 mins.

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Saturday's answer 1-23

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	■	9	10	11
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45	46					■	47			■	■	■
48			■	49		50				51	52	53
54				55					■	56		
57			■	58					■	59		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18– only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Tiffani Thiessen, 38; Mariska Hargitay, 48; Gail O'Grady, 49; Richard Dean Anderson, 62.

Happy Birthday: Lack of moderation is the enemy. Discipline and hard work will pay off. The choice is yours, so make up your mind to do what's best for you. A legal or financial matter can be improved with the right attitude. Learning and a change in lifestyle or philosophy are heading your way. Your numbers are 2, 5, 11, 23, 29, 33, 45.

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Jump at any chance to help. Compassion, along with your drive and determination to make a difference, will open up a passageway that can assist in getting the go-ahead to move forward with a project you want to complete. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): You'll make a mistake if you offer your services to someone willing to take advantage of you. Back up and rethink your strategy. You'll do much better putting greater effort into self-improvement and doing what most benefits you. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't stop until you are completely satisfied with the information you've received. Do your due diligence and dig deep to find out more. A short trip or emailing someone with answers you require will pay off. Don't trust everyone. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You cannot change your position or status by buying your way in. You have to put in the work and show your dedication and sincerity before acceptance will be granted. Love will have a powerful impact on a decision you make. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): A change of pace or visiting a place you've never been before will help you see your situation in a new light. Don't let uncertainty at home lead to a mistake. Move away from anyone you feel may not be good for you. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put pressure on anyone you need something from. It's up to you to bend the rules to get things done to your specifications. Speak up and make your point heard. You will impress someone with your gallant way of taking control. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Don't let little annoyances get to you when you should be spending time with children, friends or your lover, enjoying what life has to offer. A trip or activity that allows you to try something new will inspire you to excel. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Do your best to put any emotional turmoil behind you. Spend time moving forward with relationships instead of remaining in a stalemate that will benefit no one. Put differences aside and work toward a common goal. Keep life simple. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Make changes at home that will separate you from the crowd. Be innovative and explore options that most would shy away from. Resurrect an idea from the past, bring it up to date and prepare to execute. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Good fortune can be yours if you think outside the box. Try something new and it will buy you time to explore other avenues. How you handle a situation will make the difference to the outcome. Execute domestic plans. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You'll be a little confused regarding personal matters. Separate what you feel and what you know so you can get an honest view of what is actually happening. Be realistic, moderate and do whatever it takes to keep things simple. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Focus on the things and people you love most. Choose what suits you best and don't deviate from your plans. Taking charge will demonstrate for others how capable you are of doing what's required to improve a situation. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are innovative and intuitively intelligent. You have a vivid imagination.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5					2	9		
		6		9			8	
	8		3		4			6
		7		5		4		9
	6		1	3	9		7	
8		3		4		5		
7			9		5		1	
	1			8		3		
		2	4					7

Difficulty Level ★ 1/23

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Saturday's SUDOKU Answer

5	1	9	6	2	4	7	3	8
6	2	3	8	5	7	9	4	1
4	7	8	1	9	3	6	2	5
1	6	5	3	8	9	4	7	2
3	9	7	2	4	5	8	1	6
8	4	2	7	6	1	3	5	9
9	3	1	5	7	8	2	6	4
7	8	6	4	1	2	5	9	3
2	5	4	9	3	6	1	8	7

Difficulty level ★★★★ 1/21

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY, DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CAREY MULLIGAN Solution: 9 letters

O	S	A	N	Y	R	E	T	S	Y	M	E	D	Y	A
N	G	I	N	E	R	S	W	T	E	E	U	B	H	Y
C	G	E	T	G	D	E	I	C	B	M	S	T	A	N
H	N	S	M	T	E	R	G	V	B	T	A	O	I	A
E	I	A	C	T	A	L	A	N	A	G	A	H	R	M
S	K	J	K	H	E	F	I	G	A	D	T	E	S	R
I	L	O	C	I	R	L	O	Q	E	H	N	M	R	E
L	A	N	K	L	T	I	R	R	U	K	T	A	I	G
B	W	Z	Y	K	A	T	S	E	D	E	I	R	N	C
E	S	E	O	W	E	R	Y	T	V	W	B	P	O	O
A	T	O	B	A	E	G	E	I	I	E	T	L	S	N
C	A	R	M	L	L	L	R	L	N	E	N	E	Ⓙ	V
H	R	N	O	L	O	D	L	N	I	I	R	Ⓔ	N	E
B	O	O	T	H	R	I	E	U	A	M	Ⓐ	R	D	N
T	E	E	R	T	S	T	Q	H	A	Ⓝ	N	A	H	T

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Abbey, Agatha, Angelique, Bennet, Booth, Charity, Christie, Clare, Convent, Davis, Drama, Drive, Garden, Gatsby, Gekko, Germany, Great, Hair, Hannah, Irene, Jean, Jonze, Kitty, Llewyn, Marple, Mystery, Nano, Never Let Me Go, Northanger, On Chesil Beach, Quiet, Role, Rose, Shame, Short, Sister, Sittaford, Spike, Star, Street, Sweet, Tomboy, Walking, Wall, Willis

Last Saturday's Answer: Braising

To order THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD, volume 26, 24.95, 27.95 CAN, 30.95 UK, 32.95 AUS, 34.95 NZD, $5.95 each, plus $3.95 postage for the 1st book and $1.00 postage for each additional book. Send to WONDERWORD, 1130 Walnut St, Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll-free 1-800-642-6479. Order online at www.puzzles.com

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Classified Ads

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Saturday Issue:
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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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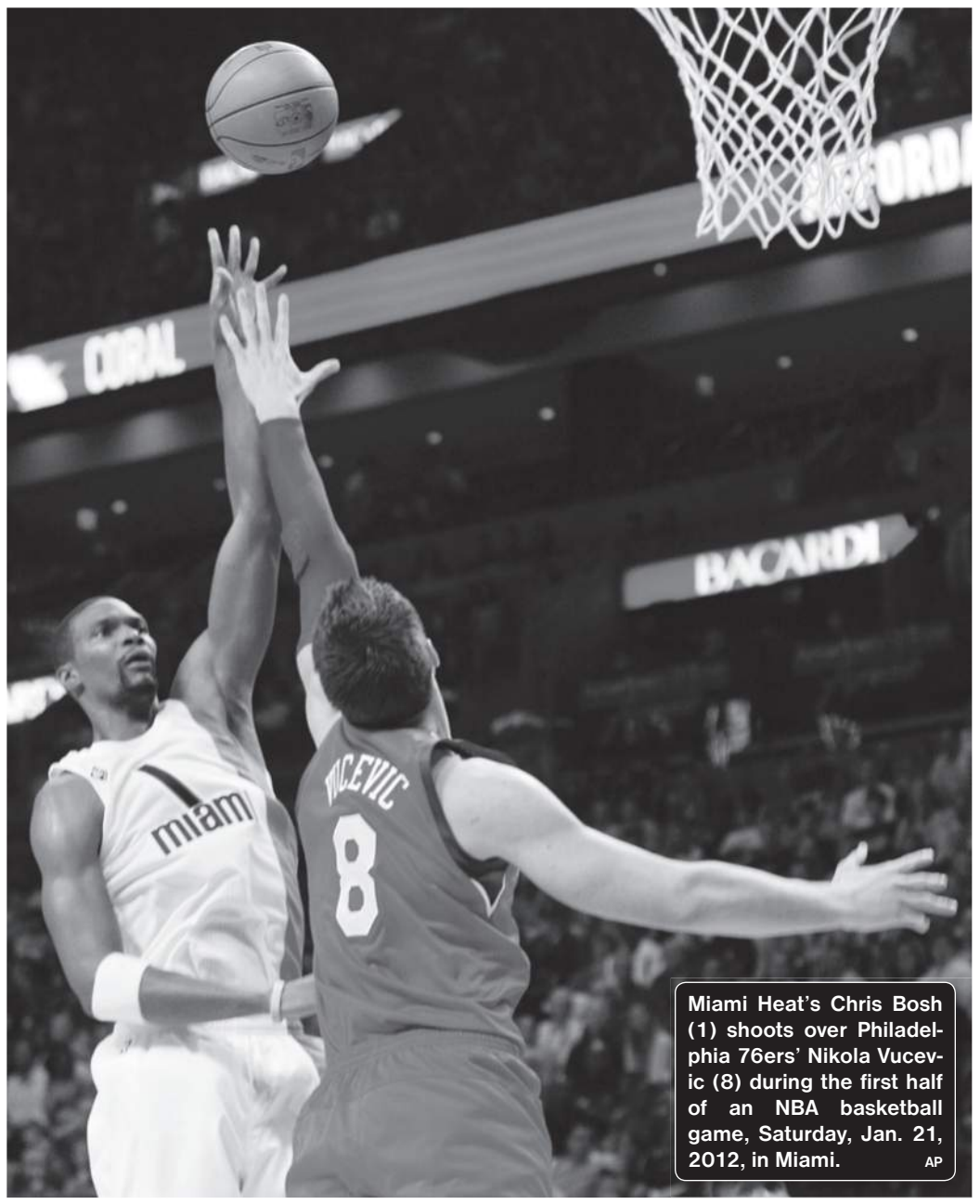
Bosh scores 30 to keep Heat on Orlando

MIAMI (AP)—Chris Bosh scored 30 points, LeBron James added 28 points and nine rebounds and the Miami Heat remained unbeaten without Dwyane Wade in the lineup this season, defeating the Philadelphia 76ers 113-92 on Saturday night.

Mario Chalmers scored 11 and Joel Anthony finished with nine points and nine rebounds for Miami, which outrebounded Philadelphia 52-31 and moved into a tie with Orlando for first in the Southeast Division. The Heat are 6-0 this season without Wade, who missed his third straight game with a sprained right ankle.

Lou Williams scored 22 points and Evan Turner added 16 for Philadelphia, which has lost eight of nine against Miami since the start of last season, including a five-game defeat in the opening round of last season's playoffs.



Miami Heat's Chris Bosh (1) shoots over Philadelphia 76ers' Nikola Vucevic (8) during the first half of an NBA basketball game, Saturday, Jan. 21, 2012, in Miami. AP

Hawks 121, Cavaliers 94

In Atlanta, Joe Johnson scored 25 points and Atlanta responded from a disappointing last outing to rout Cleveland.

Johnson scored 19 of his points in the first half for Atlanta, which sat all its starters in the final quarter. Jannero Pargo, who opened the fourth with back-to-back 3-pointers, had a season-high 14 points.

Jeff Teague added 14 points as the Hawks moved past Friday night's 90-76 loss at Philadelphia. After the loss, which ended a four-game winning streak, coach Larry Drew said "It got tough for us and we quit."

Pistons 94, Trail Blazers 91

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Rodney Stuckey scored 28 points and Detroit won for only the second time in 12 games.

Portland were down three after Felton made two free throws with 37 seconds remaining. Stuckey missed a wild driving attempt, and Portland rebounded and called a timeout with 15.6 seconds left.

Jamal Crawford drove for a layup with 8.4 seconds to go, and Stuckey answered with a pair of free throws.

Detroit fouled Felton at midcourt, preventing Portland from trying a 3-point attempt. He made both free throws, but Stuckey made two of his own with 4.4 seconds left for a three-point lead.

Grizzlies 128, Kings 95

In Memphis, Tennessee, Rudy Gay had 23 points, Mike Conley and O.J. Mayo added 22 apiece and Memphis won their sixth straight.

Marc Gasol had 20 points on 8-of-11 shooting and grabbed 11 rebounds, while Marreese Speights contributed 12 points and 15 rebounds for Memphis.

Jimmer Fredette led Sacramento with a season-high 20 points and six assists, while Donte Greene and DeMarcus Cousins scored 19 apiece. Cousins also had 11 rebounds and Tyreke Evans had 13 points.

The Grizzlies led by only eight at halftime, but opened the second half with a 12-0 run to push the lead to 20. The Kings trailed by as many as 39 in the fourth quarter.

Thunder 84, Nets 74

In Newark, New Jersey, Kevin Durant had 20 points and a season-high 15 rebounds as Oklahoma stifled New Jersey.

Playing in his first game since signing a five-year, $80 million contract extension, Russell Westbrook added 21 points and six assists and James Harden had 16 points and nine rebounds off the bench.

Coming off a loss to lowly Washington, Oklahoma City (13-3) limited New Jersey to 31 percent shooting from the field, including 3 of 23 from 3-point range. The Thunder also blocked 10 shots, with Serge Ibaka getting a season-high five.

Bulls 95, Bobcats 89

In Chicago, Carlos Boozer scored 17 of his 23 points in the second half to lead injury-depleted Chicago over struggling Charlotte.

Luol Deng added 22 points and eight rebounds as the Bulls won their seventh straight at home and improved to an NBA-best 15-3 despite the absence of two starters and two key reserves. Richard Hamilton added a season-high 18 points for Chicago.

The Bulls played their fourth straight game without reigning NBA MVP Derrick Rose (sprained left big toe). They also were missing starting center Joakim Noah, a late scratch because of a left ankle sprain.

Gerald Henderson Jr. led Charlotte with 22 points, but the Bobcats lost their fifth consecutive road game. They have dropped nine of 10 overall.

Rockets 105, Spurs 102

In Houston, Kevin Martin scored 25 points, Kyle Lowry had 14 points and eight assists and Houston took advantage of Tim Duncan's absence to beat San Antonio.

Goran Dragic scored 14 and Samuel Dalembert added 12 points and a season-high six blocks for the Rockets, who have won six in a row.

Tony Parker had 24 points and a season-high 13 assists for the Spurs, who were playing their fourth game in five nights. San Antonio coach Gregg Popovich rested Duncan, who played 25 minutes in Friday night's loss to Sacramento. Tiago Splitter had a career-high 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Spurs.

Mavericks 83, Hornets 81

In New Orleans, Lamar Odom scored 16 points in his first start of the season and Dallas overcame the absence of Dirk Nowitzki to send New Orleans to a seventh-straight loss.

Delonte West scored 16, while Shawn Marion had 14 points and a season-high 12 rebounds for the Mavs. Jason Terry added 12 points, including two free throws in the final seconds that made it 83-80 before Jason Kidd made sure to foul Jarrett Jack before he could attempt a game-tying 3.

The foul gave Jack two free throws. He missed the second on purpose, but could not convert a quick putback for the tie.

Nuggets 119, Knicks 114

In New York, Danilo Gallinari outplayed Carmelo Anthony in the first meeting since they were swapped in a blockbuster trade, scoring a career-high 37 points as Denver outlasted New York in double-overtime.

Al Harrington, another former Knicks forward, scored 22 of his 24 points after halftime for the Nuggets, allowing them to withstand Anthony's attempt to rally the Knicks after his poor shooting had them behind until the final minutes of regulation.

Anthony finished with 25 points and 10 rebounds, missing 20 of 30 shots in the Knicks' sixth straight loss. He missed 14 of his first 17 shots, then made his final four of regulation to nearly help New York pull it out.

Jazz 108, Timberwolves 98

In Salt Lake City, Paul Millsap scored 12 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter to power Utah past Minnesota.

Matched up against Kevin Love, Millsap shot 6 of 7 in the final period on a variety of fall away jumpers and shots at the rim to help the Jazz win for the ninth time in 11 games.

Ricky Rubio, who had 17 points and 11 assists, made a jumper with 5:01 to play to cut the Jazz lead to 100-96. But Minnesota ran out of gas one night after a dramatic win in Los Angeles against the Clippers.

Braun makes passing reference to drug test

NEW YORK (AP)—Ryan Braun referred only in passing to his positive drug test and possible 50-game suspension as he accepted the National League MVP award at a black-tie dinner Saturday night.

After congratulating other award winners and thanking teammates, family, and the Milwaukee organization, the Brewers left fielder, speaking before a crowd of around 800 in a hotel ballroom, thanked the Major League Baseball Players Association for supporting him through his entire career, "especially for supporting me through everything I've went through over the last couple of months."

ESPN.com first reported in December that Braun had tested positive in October. Braun's grievance appeal before arbitrator Shyam Das to avoid a suspension began Thursday.

"You know, sometimes in life, we all deal with challenges we never expected to endure," Braun told the crowd. "We have an opportunity to look at those challenges and view them either as obstacles or as opportunities, and I've chosen to view every challenge I've ever faced as an opportunity and this will be no different. I have always believed that a person's character is revealed through the way they deal with those moments of adversity."

Braun, the NL Rookie of the Year in 2007, hit .312 with 33 home runs and 111 RBIs last season in leading Milwaukee to the NL Central title. He was not available to take questions from reporters Saturday night, his first public appearance since news broke about the positive test.

Braun's appearance overshadowed a sometimes funny, sometimes poignant 89th dinner of the BBWAA's New York chapter that honored, among others, former Mets catcher Gary Carter, who is fighting brain cancer. The Hall of Fame slugger was represented by his three children.

Carter received the "You Gotta Have Heart" award. Fighting tears, his pregnant daughter, Chrissy, said: "I'll tell my dad about the standing O—he'll like that."

Also honored was Yankees head athletic trainer Gene Monahan, who retired at the end of last season after 49 years with the organization.

Monahan, the night's final award recipient, was honored for long and meritorious service to baseball. He was introduced, appropriately, by Yankees closer Mariano Rivera—who had earlier received the "Toast of the Town" award. In an emotional speech, Monahan acknowledged late Yankees owner George Steinbrenner on several occasions and concluded by saying, "To do what you do the best and love the most, that's what happiness is all about."

Don Newcombe, 85, elicited laughter as he introduced Tigers ace Justin Verlander, who joined the former Brooklyn Dodgers pitcher as the only players to win a Cy Young Award, MVP trophy and Rookie of the Year.

On a Mets-themed evening that acknowledged the 50th anniversary of the team's first season, Frank Thomas, Jay Hook and Al Jackson spoke on behalf of the 1962 Mets, remembered for their 40-120 record.

Former Mets player and manager Bobby Valentine was lightly and briefly booed when introduced as Boston's new manager. Valentine joked about traveling from the Boston chapter's Thursday dinner before introducing Yankees reliever David Robertson, who received an award for community service.

Former Mets and new Miami shortstop Jose Reyes accepted the writers' "Good Guy" award, and outfielder Tommy Davis received the "You Could Look It Up" award, honoring the 50th anniversary of his 153-RBI season with the Los Angeles Dodgers.

Stu Sternberg, principal owner of the Tampa Bay Rays, accepted Manager of the Year and AL Rookie of the Year on behalf of Joe Maddon and Jeremy Hellickson, respectively. Maddon, who spoke by video, is on vacation with his wife in the Greek islands, a trip planned in early September, before the Rays made their big comeback to reach the AL playoffs.

Cardinals third baseman David Freese was in attendance to accept the Babe Ruth award as postseason MVP.

Nadal advances to Australian Open quarterfinals

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—His right knee and left ankle taped, Rafael Nadal didn't look to be in any pain as he gave friend Feliciano Lopez the runaround Sunday, winning 6-4, 6-4, 6-2 to reach the Australian Open quarterfinals .

Nadal, who bizarrely hurt his knee while sitting in a chair the day before the tournament began, is one win away from a possible semifinal against old rival Roger Federer after beating his fellow Spaniard for the ninth time in 11 matches.

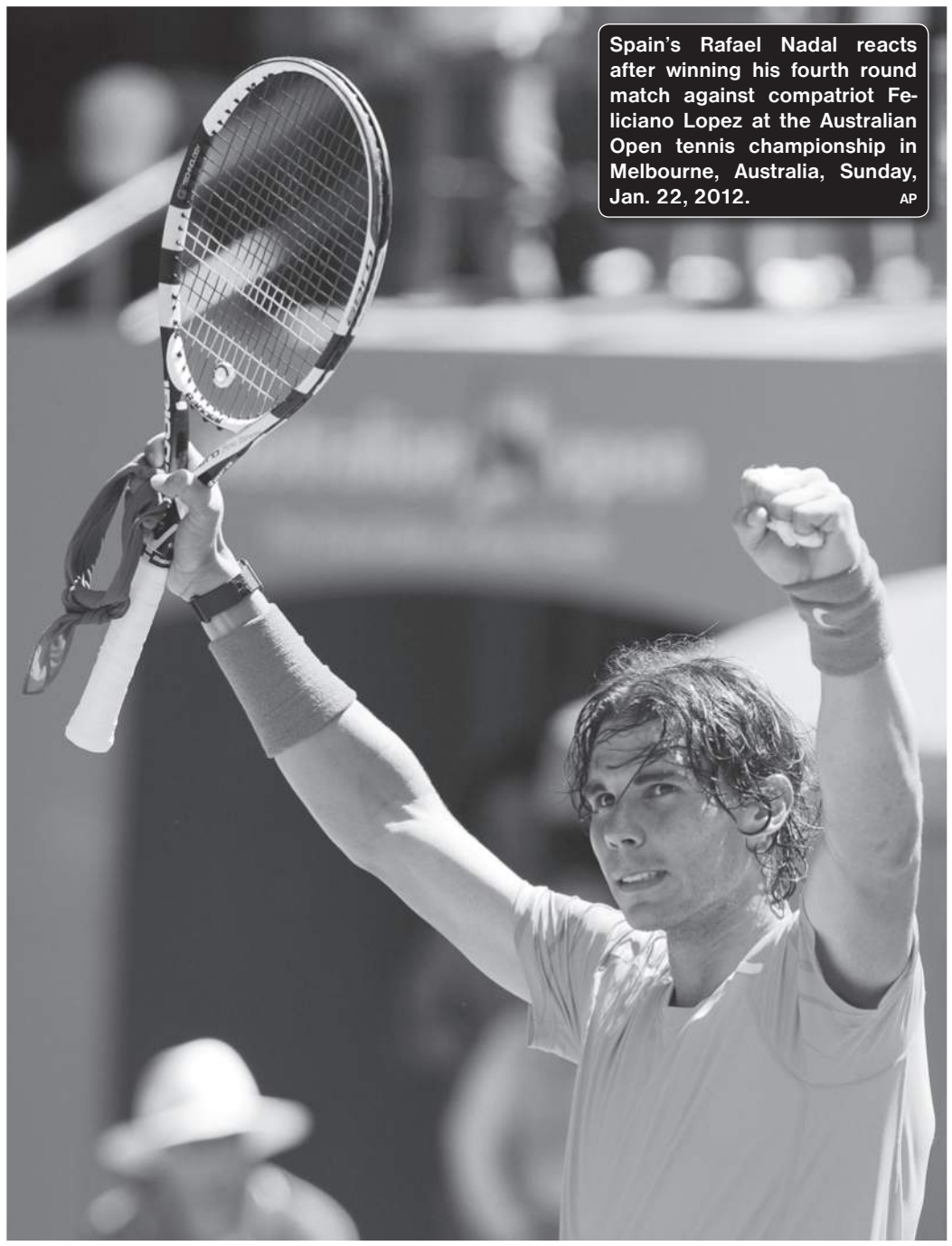
"Feliciano is one of my best friends on tour. That's the game. That's the sport," said Nadal, who hasn't dropped a set in four matches. "You understand that's only a game. You understand that everybody wants to win; everybody wants to finish the match with the best result."

On a sunny day with the temperature rising to 91, both players sat with ice towels around their necks during the changeovers.

Nadal needed treatment from the trainer for a left ankle problem after three games of the first set. By that time, he had already broken serve and he did the same early in the next two sets to maintain control against Lopez.

"I am fine," Nadal said. "It was a very, very hot day. I think it's positive to keep winning in straight sets."

Nadal will play Tomas Berdych or Nicolas Almagro, hoping to avoid a third straight quarterfinal loss in Melbourne. Defending the title in 2010, the Spaniard retired with a knee injury against Andy Murray. A year ago, he was hampered by a hamstring problem in a straight-sets loss to David Ferrer.



Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts after winning his fourth round match against compatriot Feliciano Lopez at the Australian Open tennis championship in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Jan. 22, 2012. AP

"Hopefully, not happen this time," Nadal said. "I had a bad experience last two years here. It's tough have to go out of a tournament like Australia in quarterfinals."

Federer was up against 19-year-old Australian Bernard Tomic in the first match of the night session later Sunday. The 16-time Grand Slam champion hasn't been beaten by a teenager since 2006, when he lost to Andy Murray at the Cincinnati Masters.

Also Sunday, defending champion Kim Clijsters was to face Li Na in a repeat of the 2011 final. Clijsters beat Li 3-6, 6-3, 6-3 to win her fourth major title a year ago.

Victoria Azarenka was the first player to reach the quarterfinals when she beat Iveta Benesova 6-2, 6-2.

The third-seeded Belarusian is yet to drop a set at the tournament and will next meet eighth-seeded Agnieszka Radwanska, who beat Julia Goerges of Germany 6-1, 6-1.

With the win, 22-year-old Azarenka stayed in the hunt for the No. 1 ranking. Petra Kvitova and Maria Sharapova can also claim the top spot from Caroline Wozniacki.

"I would be a liar if I said I didn't care about it," Azarenka said. "It's in the back of my head and we'll take it day by day, I guess."

Azarenka, like Wozniacki, is aiming for her first Grand Slam title. She has never gone past the quarterfinals at the Australian Open, but goes into her match against Radwanska with a 6-3 winning record. The last of those victories came at the Sydney International tournament, which Azarenka won before coming to Melbourne.

Sunday's win was her ninth straight, but the likes of Serena Williams and Clijsters are still attracting more attention.

"For me, doesn't really matter. I try to focus on myself," Azarenka said. "I think I'm in the best shape physically right now, so it kind of helps other aspects of the game. I feel pretty good out there."

Spokesman: Paterno in serious condition

STATE COLLEGE, Pa. (AP)—Joe Paterno's doctors say the former Penn State coach's condition has become "serious" after he experienced complications from lung cancer in recent days.

The winningest major college football coach of all time, Paterno was diagnosed shortly after Penn State's Board of Trustees ousted him Nov. 9 in the aftermath of the child sex abuse charges against former assistant Jerry Sandusky. Paterno's been getting treatment since, and his health problems worsened when he broke his pelvis—an injury that first cropped up when he was accidentally hit in preseason practice last year.

"Over the last few days Joe Paterno has experienced further health complications," family spokesman Dan McGinn said in a brief statement Saturday to The Associated Press. "His doctors have now characterized his status as serious.

"His family will have no comment on the situation and asks that their privacy be respected during this difficult time," he said.

Paterno's sons Scott and Jay each took to Twitter Saturday night to refute reports that their father had died.

Wrote Jay Paterno: "I appreciate the support & prayers. Joe is continuing to fight."

The 85-year-old Paterno has been in the hospital since Jan. 13 for observation for what his family had called minor complications from his cancer treatments. Not long before that, he conducted his only interview since losing his job, with The Washington Post. Paterno was described as frail then and wearing a wig. The second half of the two-day interview was conducted by his bedside.

Paterno

Roughly 200 students and townspeople gathered Saturday night at a statue of Paterno just outside a gate at Beaver Stadium. Some brought candles, while others held up their smart phones to take photos of the scene. The mood was somber, with no chanting or shouting.

"Drove by students at the Joe statue," Jay Paterno tweeted. "Just told my Dad about all the love & support--inspiring him."

The final days of Paterno's Penn State career were easily the toughest in his 61 years with the university and 46 seasons as head football coach.

Sandusky, a longtime defensive coordinator who was on Paterno's staff during two national title seasons, was arrested Nov. 5 and ultimately charged with sexually abusing a total of 10 boys over 15 years. His arrest sparked outrage not just locally but across the nation and there were widespread calls for Paterno to quit.

Paterno announced late on Nov. 9 that he would retire at the end of the season but just hours later he received a call from board vice chairman John Surma, telling him he had been terminated as coach. By that point, a crowd of students and media were outside the Paterno home. When news spread that Paterno had been dumped, there was rioting in State College.

Police on Saturday evening had barricaded off the block where Paterno lives, and a police car was stationed about 50 yards from his home. Several people had gathered in the living room of the house. No one was outside, other than reporters and photographers stationed there.

Trustees said this week they pushed Paterno out in part because he failed a moral responsibility to report an allegation made in 2002 against Sandusky to authorities outside the university. They also felt he had challenged their authority and that, as a practical matter, with all the media in town and attention to the Sandusky case, he could no longer run the team.

Paterno testified before the grand jury investigating Sandusky that he had relayed to his bosses an accusation that came from graduate assistant Mike McQueary, who said he saw Sandusky abusing a boy in the showers of the Penn State football building.

Paterno told the Post that he didn't know how to handle the charge, but a day after McQueary visited him, he spoke to the athletic director and the administrator with oversight over the campus police.

Wick Sollers, Paterno's lawyer, called the board's comments this week self-serving and unsupported by the facts. Paterno fully reported what he knew to the people responsible for campus investigations, Sollers said.

"He did what he thought was right with the information he had at the time," Sollers said.

Sandusky says he is innocent and is out on bail, awaiting trial.

High winds stop 3rd round of Humana with Wilson up

LA QUINTA, Calif. (AP)—The Humana Challenge suspended play midway through the third round Saturday after high winds caused damage on all three courses, toppling trees, blowing balls off the greens and knocking a scoreboard into a lake.

The tournament will resume third-round play Sunday morning with Mark Wilson holding a three-stroke lead over Ben Crane.

The pro-am tournament reported no injuries, but called an early halt after 35-mph winds rampaged across the Palm Springs area in the early afternoon. The amateur players, including former President Bill Clinton, won't get to finish their rounds on Sunday.

"It's really bad," said Slugger White, the PGA Tour's vice president of rules and competitions. "They've got a lot of trees down. It's a real mess. ... We knew (the wind) was going to be bad, but we thought it would be something we could play with, and then the bottom fell out."

White said he believes they can finish the four-round event Sunday "in a perfect world." Wilson doubts it after ferocious gusts interrupted a previously perfect weekend of Palm Springs weather.

"It's amazing how it happened so quickly, but we've seen it before," said Wilson, who's at 21 under for the tournament after going 5 under through 15 holes at the La Quinta Country Club course, which sustained the most damage. "I think they made the right call. You don't want to see anybody get hurt."

Most of the golfers were past the turn in the third round when kicked up, blowing balls around the course, sending a large scoreboard into a lake on the Palmer Private course and wrecking an awning in the Bob Hope Square fan area. Several trees were toppled at the La Quinta course, while the other two courses had only cosmetic damage and blowing debris.

White said the grounds crews would use chainsaws to remove the fallen trees at La Quinta.

Clinton and Greg Norman had just hit their tee shots on the 10th hole of the Palmer Private course when play was suspended. A short time later, a scoreboard blew into the lake that's flanked by the 10th and 18th holes.

Wilson was a co-leader after two rounds with Crane and David Toms, who dropped back to 15 under. Zach Johnson moved within four strokes of the lead after going 6 under through 13 holes.

With tee times at 7:30 a.m. Sunday morning, White believes it might be possible to finish the event on time. Most players are staying in Southern California next week for the Farmers Insurance Open at Torrey Pines.

"I don't know how they could get it done tomorrow, but more power to them if they do," Wilson said.

Mayweather phones Pacquiao after calling him out

BOXING

LOS ANGELES—Floyd Mayweather has spoken to Filipino icon Manny Pacquiao by telephone to discuss a possible megafight next May, advisers to each fighter confirmed to several media outlets on Thursday.

Mayweather adviser Leonard Ellerbe confirmed the call to ESPN while Pacquiao promoter Bob Arum did the same to BoxingScene.com and Pacquiao himself talked with ABS-CBN in the Philippines about the short conversation.

The Filipino report quoted Pacquiao as saying there would be no problem if Mayweather would agree to a 50-50 split of income from what is expected to be the richest fight in boxing history—if it ever comes off.

Mayweather

Pacquiao

Unbeaten U.S. star Mayweather and Pacquiao, regarded as the world's top pound-for-pound fighters, nearly made a deal for a fight once before but the American's insistence on unique anti-doping blood tests helped kill the talks.

This time, Mayweather has a May 5 date booked at a Las Vegas arena while Pacquiao's promoter wants a late May date to assemble a huge outdoor arena so for tickets can be sold to boost profits as much as $50 million.

"Floyd wants to fight Manny Pacquiao on May 5 and he went as far as to reach out to Manny Pacquiao personally," Ellerbe said.

Ellerbe told ESPN that Mayweather called from Las Vegas to the Philippines after earlier this month calling out southpaw Pacquiao on Twitter, taunting "Step Up, Punk" to the world welterweight champion.

Mayweather has spoken with Pacquiao adviser Michael Koncz several times in recent weeks, according to all reports.

Pacquiao, 54-3 with two drawn and 32 knockouts, has won his past 15 fights over a span of nearly seven years while Mayweather, 42-0 with 26 knockouts, must serve a 90-day jail sentence starting June 1 after a domestic violence conviction.

Arum said that the issue of who Pacquiao would next fight would be resolved this coming week.

Arum presented four other possible foes for "Pac-Man" as next opponents, including Puerto Rico's Miguel Cotto and Americans Lamont Peterson, Tim Bradley and Mexican Juan Manuel Marquez. ***(AFP)***

USUAL

From Page 28

ie Tenorio (58:30).

In the women's division, Dawn Hammermeister won over Susan Marchitti.

Bikers entered in the MTB championship course pedaled up to, FEBC, Kimikaze trail, Autobahn, Santa Clause Lane, Banzai, and back to Paupau Beach.

In the road bike open/mixed race, which had riders negotiating Radar Tower, Suicide Cliff, Bird Island, The Grotto, and Banzai Cliff before returning to Paupau Beach, Carey completed the race under the one-hour mark and defeated two male riders—Nap Dizon and Rene Calage.

Five other bikers reigned supreme in their respective divisions—Bob Oropesa, Regina Sebial, Rolando Canipas, Amy Sletten, and Enrique Suba.

Oropesa and Sebial dominated the men's and women's MBT open races. Oropesa won over Aldrin Sta. Ana and Charlie Sendin, while Sebial edged Joan Salazar. The MTB open course had riders passing FEBC (twice), Kimikaze trail, Autobahn, Santa Clause Lane, and Banzai

In the MTB beginners, Canipas outraced Rolly Verzon and Manny Serrano, while Sletten defeated Rima Yamagishi and Mamiko Oshima-Berger. MTB beginners cruised past FEBC, Bird Island, Grotto, and Banzai Cliff before going back to Paupau Beach.

In the MTB sports, which brought riders to FEBC, Kimikaze trail, left to Grotto Road, Santa Claus Lane, and Banzai Trail, Suba finished ahead of Rosalio Quintos and Ariel Lansangan.

Meanwhile, SDA's 7th and 8th graders would like to thank the following for supporting the race: Saipan Pro Bike, Ben Babauta, Pacific Islands Club, Herman's Bakery RIDE NMI, and Saipan SDA Clinic.

Over 100 bikers joined the race aimed at raising funds for SDA students who will have an educational trip this year.

UPSET

From Page 28

strikes were on point throughout the tournament. Gechig went for easy spike from behind the foul line and Lizama did a very good job feeding him the ball all day. Lizama showed a well-rounded game in her own right and their speed enabled them to cover their entire side of the court on defense.

It was the first time for either player to clinch a championship in three appearances in the same event. Lizama and Gechig never teamed up in the past, however with the chemistry they showed over the weekend, it is no surprise that the two will be right in the mix when they contend for a title defense next year.

Gechig and Lizama received the $150 cash prize to split and each went home with cell phones provided by IT&E. They also inherited the responsibility to organize next year's tournament.

Mister and Yamada won $100 in addition to a pair of $20 gift coupons from Truong's and an IT&E gift bag, while McCullough-Stearns and Roberts were awarded $50 and IT&E gift bags.

The two-person coed tournament was formatted with special ground rules. The nets were set at women's height and male players were prohibited from going for blocks. Male players also could only spike the ball from behind a specially marked 10-foot line.

The competition started out with a round-robin pool play made of five randomly selected teams per group. The Top 3 place finishers of each pool advanced to the 16-team double elimination segment of the tournament. Tiebreaker matches were also held to determine the final wild card finalist. Various raffle prizes were given away during the games and all participants received free event t-shirts.

NMIVA would like to thank event sponsors IT&E, Gatorade, Pepsi, Triple J Super Fresh Market, Triple J Motors, Marianas Trekking, Pacific Islands Club, IP&E, and Elliott Systems LLC for all of their support.

NMIVA's next event headlined, For the Love of Volleyball 2012, is a beach volleyball doubles tournament open to both male and female players ages 16 and older. It will be held on Feb. 11 at the Hyatt Regency Saipan, starting at 9am. Entrance fee is set at $20 per player and $15 for NMIVA members.

Visit www.nmivolleyball.org or email tournament coordinators Vangi Sablan (vangie.sablan@hyattsaipan.com) or Laurie Peterka (nmivolleyball@gmail.com) for more information.

15 SURVIVE

From Page 28

ern Passage bike race on Feb. 12, XTERRA Trail Run 2 on Feb. 18, and the Saipan Swim Club Meek and Mighty Swim on Feb. 25.

For March, four more events will be held before XTERRA and Tagaman. First up is the Festival of Races, which will have a marathon, half marathon, and 10K, and will all take place on March 3. The third and last XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer is scheduled for March 10, while XTERRA and Tagaman courses pre-rides will be held on March 17 and 18, respectively. The last two weeks of March will be for XTERRA (March 24) and Tagaman (March 31). XTERRA and Tagaman entries are raffled off in selected warm-up events.

Entrance fees for the Enticers and Tagaman/XTERRA swim and rides are only $5 and all proceeds will go to Tagaman, Inc. Other events have their separate registration fees.

AYUYUS

From Page 28

Kagman's varsity team stretched its streak to three, while GCA is still in search of its first win after three tries.

The Ayuyus managed an early 17-13 edge in the opening 10 minutes off a string of eight points from Joshua Jones. Then the Ayuyus sank eight free throws in the second quarter to maintain a 33-28 lead at the half.

Jonathan Salas led the Eagles with nine markers at midpoint, while Jones added another eight points in the second period to finish the half with 16.

Kagman stepped up its game after the pause and broke open a stout 61-44 margin, heading into the final canto. Jones racked up 16 more points in the third, while his teammates continued to hog virtually all of the boards on both ends of the court.

GCA on the other hand committed costly turnovers, which amounted to a lot of easy transition baskets for the Ayuyus.

Kagman was well in control by the start of the fourth quarter and Francisco Mettao delivered 10 points in the clutch to seal the deal.

Jones finished with a game-high 33 points, while Salas turned in 14 in the loss.

In the junior varsity match, GCA shut out the junior Ayuyus in the first quarter, 7-0, and maintained a 14-7 margin at halftime.

Dong Ha Lee carried the torch for GCA with his eight points in the first half.

The Eagles defense then contained KHS to just four points in the third period to pull ahead by double figures, 21-11, heading into crunch time.

Kagman's Jesse Santos came alive with nine points in a last-ditch rally effort, but GCA held strong for the win.

Lee led all scorers with 16 points, while Santos finished with 15 on the short end.

The MISO boys basketball season continues today with MHS and Saipan Southern High School colliding both in the junior varsity and varsity games.

Junior Varsity Game

GCA 31 – Lee 16, Reyes 6, Smithee 3, Aldan 2, Sugue 2, Yu 2.

KHS 22 – Santos 15, Ada 3, Halstead 2, Mafnas 2.

Scoring by quarters: 7-0, 14-7, 21-11, 31-22.

Varsity Game

KHS 87 – Jones 33, Mettao 19, Lampkins 16, Delos Reyes 4, Santos 4, Taitano 4, Santiago 3, Bornilla 2, Butters 2.

GCA 57 – J. Salas 14, Kim 12, Lee 8, Libut 8, A. Salas 7, Borja 4, Hong 4.

Scoring by quarters: 17-13, 33-28, 61-44, 87-57.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	11	5	.688	–
New York	6	10	.375	5
Boston	5	9	.357	5
New Jersey	4	12	.250	7
Toronto	4	12	.250	7

Southeast Division

Orlando	11	4	.733	–
Miami	11	4	.733	–
Atlanta	12	5	.706	–
Charlotte	3	13	.188	8 1/2
Washington	2	13	.133	9

Central Division

Chicago	15	3	.833	–
Indiana	10	4	.714	3
Cleveland	6	9	.400	7 1/2
Milwaukee	5	9	.357	8
Detroit	4	13	.235	10 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

Memphis	9	6	.600	–
San Antonio	10	7	.588	–
Dallas	10	7	.588	–
Houston	9	7	.563	1/2
New Orleans	3	13	.188	6 1/2

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	13	3	.813	–
Denver	12	5	.706	1 1/2
Utah	10	5	.667	2 1/2
Portland	9	7	.563	4
Minnesota	7	9	.438	6

Pacific Division

L.A. Clippers	8	5	.615	–
L.A. Lakers	10	7	.588	–
Phoenix	6	9	.400	3
Sacramento	6	11	.353	4
Golden State	5	10	.333	4

Yesterday's Games

Atlanta 121, Cleveland 94
Detroit 94, Portland 91
Miami 113, Philadelphia 92
Denver 119, New York 114, 2OT
Chicago 95, Charlotte 89
Houston 105, San Antonio 102
Dallas 83, New Orleans 81
Memphis 128, Sacramento 95
Oklahoma City 84, New Jersey 74
Utah 108, Minnesota 98

NBA LEADERS

Scoring

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Bryant, LAL	17	189	118	516	30.4
James, MIA	14	155	98	417	29.8
Durant, OKC	16	147	97	417	26.1
Anthony, NYK	15	129	104	385	25.7
Love, MIN	16	121	114	385	24.1
Aldridge, POR	16	151	70	373	23.3
Ellis, GOL	14	119	73	326	23.3
Griffin, LAC	13	112	51	276	21.2
Westbrook, OKC	16	126	67	329	20.6
Bosh, MIA	15	121	59	305	20.3
Howard, ORL	15	111	81	303	20.2
Jennings, MIL	14	109	32	279	19.9
Martin, HOU	16	103	65	301	18.8
Lee, GOL	14	109	43	261	18.6
Gay, MEM	15	117	35	279	18.6
J. Johnson, ATL	17	114	50	316	18.6
Jefferson, UTA	14	109	38	256	18.3
D. Williams, NJN	15	86	71	272	18.1
Stoudemire, NYK	14	88	66	247	17.6
Parker, SAN	17	120	58	299	17.6

FG Percentage

	FG	FGA	PCT
Dalembert, HOU	60	100	.600
Gortat, PHX	100	167	.599
Howard, ORL	111	193	.575
James, MIA	155	271	.572
Millsap, UTA	107	193	.554
Nash, PHX	82	149	.550
Gasol, MEM	87	160	.544
White, CHA	63	116	.543
Williams, LAC	55	102	.539
Harrington, DEN	103	192	.536

Rebounds

	G	OFF	DEF	TOT	AVG
Howard, ORL	15	62	180	242	16.1
Love, MIN	16	72	153	225	14.1
Bynum, LAL	13	49	128	177	13.6
Griffin, LAC	13	47	105	152	11.7
Varejao, CLE	15	66	98	164	10.9
Lee, GOL	14	47	102	149	10.6
Cousins, SAC	16	76	94	170	10.6
Gasol, MEM	15	30	129	159	10.6
Humphries, NJN	14	55	93	148	10.6
Hibbert, IND	14	47	94	141	10.1

Assists

	G	AST	AVG
Nash, PHX	14	140	10.0
Rondo, BOS	13	122	9.4
Calderon, TOR	16	144	9.0
Rose, CHI	13	113	8.7
Lowry, HOU	14	120	8.6
Paul, LAC	9	76	8.4
Rubio, MIN	16	133	8.3
D. Williams, NJN	15	123	8.2
Parker, SAN	17	129	7.6
James, MIA	14	104	7.4

HUMANA CHALLENGE SCORES

LA QUINTA, California (AP)–Scores Saturday from the Humana Challenge, a $5.6 million US PGA Tour course on three courses: 6,950-yard, par-72 p-PGA West (Palmer Course); 7,060-yard, par-72 q-La Quinta Club; 6,924-yard, par-72 n-PGA West (Nicklaus Course):

Third Round Leaderboard

(No players completed the third round)

Mark Wilson	-21 thru 15
Ben Crane	-18 thru 12
Robert Garrigus	-16 thru 13
John Senden	-16 thru 11
Zach Johnson	-16 thru 12
John Mallinger	-16 thru 14
Jason Dufner	-15 thru 17
Chris Kirk	-15 thru 9
David Toms	-15 thru 11
Jarrod Lyle	-14 thru 15
Steve Marino	-14 thru 12
Brendon Todd	-14 thru 12
Tommy Biershenk	-14 thru 12

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Weekend Sports

Competitions heat up

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Teams and individuals started to get busy this year as various competitions took place last week.

At the Capitol Bowling Center, the Saipan Bowling Association had its Budweiser King of the Lanes finale with Simon Manacop ruling the season-ending event. Manacop prevailed over siblings Ruselle and Raymond Zapanta to take the championship for the first time since the event was held in 2004.

Manacop finished third in the qualifier, defeated Raymond in the semis, and then stunned the top-ranked Ruselle in the finals to rule the competition.

In Garapan, triathlete Butch Sublemente won the pre-XTERRA/Tagaman run race, beating 30 other runners. It was Sublemente's second pre-XTERRA event win, as he also dominated Enticer 1 held at Paupau Beach.

At the Marianas High School Gymnasium, both private and public high schools on Saipan continued seeing action in the MISO boys basketball and girls volleyball leagues. In the boys caging, MHS and Saipan Southern High School remained unbeaten in the varsity division, while Saipan International School and MHS 1 are also perfect in the volleyball competition.

MISO also had its soccer league games at the Oleai Sports Complex Field with the MHS Lady Dolphins downing the Lady Rays.

In basketball, Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands announced the start of the tryouts for the CNMI U17 teams that will compete in the 2012 Micronesian Basketball Tournament (Western Division), which Saipan will be hosting this May.

The girls U17 tryout was held at the MHS Gymnasium with BANMI vice president Elias Rangamar conducting the training sessions. BANMI is still looking for a coach. Over at the Northern Marianas College Gymnasium, interim coach Rufino Aguon led the tryouts for boys U17.

Still in basketball, the MDX caging continued its regular season games as teams struggled to gain playoff seats in Brackets A and B.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands vice president Elias Rangamar watches players do drills during a tryout at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
Marianas High School's Jim Lacsina goes up for a shot against Grace Christian Academy during their game in the MISO caging at the MHS Gymnasium.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Simon Manacop smiles after pulling off an upset in the 2011 Budweiser King of the Lanes tournament last week at the Capitol Bowling Center.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Three runners head out of the Sugar King Park during the pre-XTERRA trail run.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Susupe/Armatech's Bong Malasarte, left, tries to keep the ball away from San Antonio/Gene's Barber's Bryl Alegre during their game in the MDX caging last week at the Civic Center Basketball Court.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Kagman High School defender, left, clashes with a Marianas High School junior varsity midfielder during their game last week in the MISO girls soccer at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
A Grace Christian Academy player goes for a hit near the net during their game against Saipan International School in the MISO girls volleyball last week at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Upset in NMIVA grass v'ball tourney

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

JR Gechig powers over a spike off a perfect set-up job by teammate Charnessa Lizama during their championship game against Tyce Mister and Toni Yamada in the NMIVA grass volleyball tournament last Saturday in Navy Hill.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

JR Gechig and Charnessa Lizama ruled the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's 5th Annual Coed Reverse Grass Volleyball Tournament held last Saturday in Navy Hill.

Gechig and Lizama went undefeated throughout the weekend tournament and clinched the championship after stunning Tyce Mister and Toni Yamada in the finals, 21-18.

Mister, who was part of the champion team last year, and his new partner Yamada were the favored pair coming into the event. However, they were knocked out of the winner's bracket by eventual third placers Clay McCullough-Stearns and Amber Roberts, who notched a 21-18 victory in the quarterfinals.

Roberts and McCullough-Stearns' celebration was short-lived, however, as Gechig and Lizama prevailed in the next round, 21-15, before Mister and Yamada eliminated the former in the anticipated rematch, 15-12. Game point had to be adjusted to 15 in the lower bracket matchups due to time constraints late in the tournament.

Gechig and Lizama then held a twice-to-beat advantage in the finals, but it did not matter as the former's powerful overhand

See UPSET on Page 26

Ayuyus, Eagles split games in MISO caging

WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND

Kagman High School's Joshua Jones skies to the hoop during their game against Grace Christian Academy in the MISO varsity caging last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Grace Christian Academy bested Kagman High School in the junior varsity game, while the Ayuyus redeemed themselves in the varsity division as action in the 2011-2012 Marianas Interscholastic Sports Organization Basketball League continued last Friday at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.

In the varsity match, Kagman routed GCA, 87-57, while the Eagles prevailed in their junior varsity debut, 31-22.

See AYUYUS on Page 26

15 survive Tagaman swim course

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Participants in the pre-Tagaman swim race pose for a photo before plunging to the waters south of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio last Saturday.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Fifteen individuals challenged the Tagaman swim course last Saturday and all completed the race in the waters south of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio.

Jeff El-Hajj and Florence Antonio led the finishers, topping the 2-kilometer and 1-km races, respectively, after clocking in at 24:23 and 20:43, respectively. Swimmers in the 1km race did one lap of the course, while participants in the 2km event had two laps.

Joining Antonio in the Top 6 in the 1km race were Eileen Escudero Wiser (21:23), Michael Towle (21:59), Roxie Lamar (22:54), James Abuy (23:49), and Natasha Kuckuck (27:18).

In the 2km course, El-Hajj finished ahead of Dawn Hammermeister (28:54), Tamio Nishikido (29:05), Butch Sublemente (30:11), Joshua Berger (30:50), Travis Spaeth (31:39), Manny Sitchon (32:43), Robyn Wondrasek (37:01), and John Douglas (39:20).

Last weekend's race is the third of a series of events aimed at preparing local athletes for the 2012 XTERRA Saipan Championship and 2012 Tagaman Triathlon.

Next Saturday, athletes are invited to join the Marianas Coffee Trail Run, which will be the last pre-XTERRA/Tagaman event of the month.

Then next month, the second of a series of XTERRA/Tagaman Enticer will be held on Feb. 4, followed by the North-

See 15 SURVIVE on Page 26

Usual top finishers at SDA bike race

Carey

Sublemente

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The heavy favorites in the Seventh Day Adventist School's MTB/Road bike fundraiser did not disappoint in yesterday's race, as Butch Sublemente and Mieko Carey ruled their respective divisions.

Sublemente prevailed in the MTB championship course, completing the race from and to Paupau Beach in less than an hour. Organizers had technical problems in listing the times of finishers, but Sublemente in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday said he finished the race less than an hour (57:25/unofficial time), less than a minute ahead of Brian Morris (58:04). Rounding off the Top 3 in the MTB championship course was Lew-

See USUAL on Page 26